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FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

· SAINT PAUL ·
· MINNESOTA ·

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J. F. Hielscher

121 Thomas St

Seattle, Wash.

See Indian War in
Minnesota Page 28
Farmington Page 356
Rev. E. J. Hielscher — Pag 320
Hutchinson 364

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HISTORY

OF THE

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

OF THE

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

1856 to 1922

Compiled and written by

Albert H. Utzinger

Conference Historian

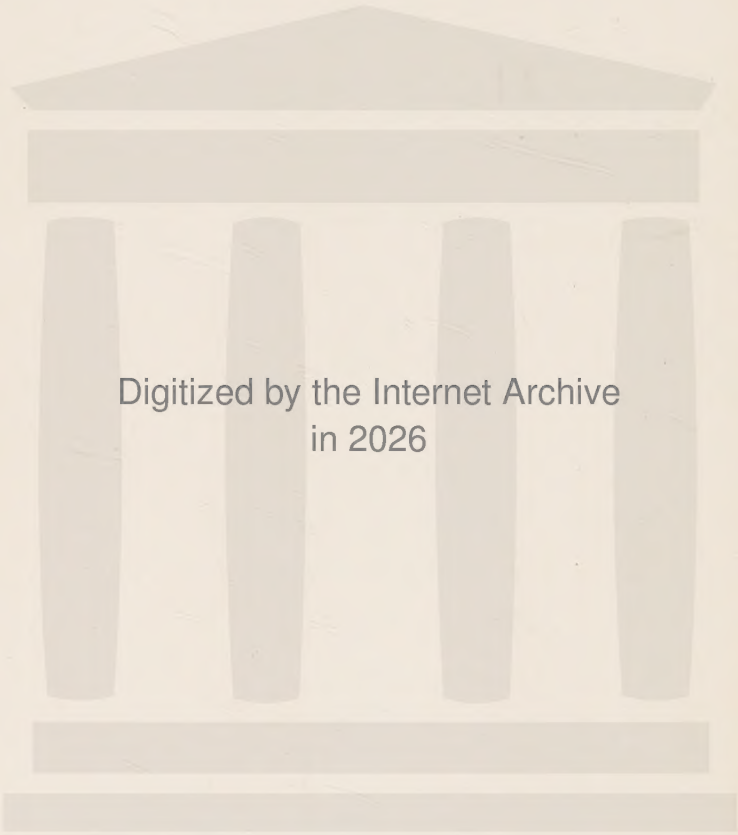
Indexed

Published by the Minnesota Conference

VOLUME I

EVANGELICAL PRESS, C. HAUSER, PUBLISHER, CLEVELAND

SEATTLE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 549
Seattle, Wash. 98111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FOREWORD

The writing of a history, such as this, is a vast and tedious undertaking. To portray correctly and impartially the beginnings and progress of our conference, in the face of meagerly kept records and failing memories, is a great task. Many and diverse have been the sources of our information, long and tedious the examination of records and periodicals. Most of the data was secured from the Conference Records, extracts from our church periodicals, and conversations with the older members.

The task was greatly augmented by much translation that was necessary, for the minutes of the conference, during nearly all of the time covered by this history, were written in the German language.

Your historian, although he did not seek this work, considered the writing of this history a great and sacred trust, and appreciates the confidence reposed in him. He has endeavored to produce a volume which portrays events and transactions in harmony with the truth, as nearly as it was humanly possible.

Special recognition is due to those who have helped in any way to make this history possible. Especially would we mention the committee, appointed by the conference, consisting of H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben and C. F. Kachel, who examined most of the manuscript, and made changes in it, wherever they deemed it advisable.

May the reading of this volume bring back pleasant recollections in the memory of our older preachers and lay members, and be an incentive to our younger people to carry on the work of the fathers, as a sacred trust from God.

Yours in the service of the Master and the church,

A. H. UTZINGER.

INTORDUCTION

To members of the church some knowledge of the history of their denomination and conference is indispensable. The more thorough that knowledge, the greater and more devoted will be their loyalty to and zeal for their church.

We find in this book a comprehensive and detailed presentation of the development and work of the Minnesota Conference from its organic beginning to the present. The conference sessions and the outstanding events and activities of the conference are laid before us.

The life sketches of the servants of God who are now reaping their reward at home with the Lord, and a few of those yet living, constitute a most valuable feature of this history. We live upon great souls that are and that have been. The memory of some of these veterans of the cross is, as it were, an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us in miniature. The effect is baptismal, pushing us along the line of ascent to a higher standard of godliness and usefulness. The pulse of their zeal and endeavor beats in our hearts once more. The pictures of some of these men add a special interest to the history.

A special department which gives the book great interest and value is the history of the different fields and congregations of the conference. The names of persons who were, and some still are, leaders in their respective societies are mentioned. To many of us who know these men, the reading of their names brings to our vision their personality and peculiarity, and we are moved to thank God for the good people He has given us, as the golden fruit of our labor in every community where the banner of the Evangelical Association has been raised.

The record of the ministry of men of God who labored so successfully in the domain of our conference, the many souls that were saved in great revivals held by them, the churches and parsonages erected under their supervision, the many splendid Evangelical congregations, bequeaths to us, who are yet in the field, a heritage that must enrich our lives, and challenges us to service and sacrifice for the cause of God's kingdom.

The aged men of the conference will read the pages of this history with keen interest, as it will call to their memory events, persons, meetings and experiences in which they may well rejoice, some also which may cause sadness.

To the young men of the conference, this history will be a valuable book of reference, giving data of persons, fields, conferences, and activities of organizations that form the unique characteristic of the Minnesota Conference.

When we think of the fifty-five years of our existence as a conference, of our present membership, Sunday-schools and Young People's Alliances, of the many saints now in the Church Triumphant who were saved by the ministry of our conference, of the hundreds of people that have moved to the Dakotas, Washington, Oregon, California and other states, and the many that have joined other churches and are valuable members there, we must exclaim with the Psalmist: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

The untiring work, the devoted thoroughness and scholarly accurateness of the author which has made the long desired history of our conference now a pleasing reality, deserves our thankful recognition. This book ought to find its place in every Evangelical home of our conference and also in many homes of people in other states who have had and still have a deep interest in the work of the Minnesota Conference.

HERMAN PLANTIKOW.

REV. J. KIENHOLZ

Joseph Kienholz was born Jan. 25, 1841, in Canton Bern, Switzerland, and came to America in 1856, locating at Hay Creek, Goodhue County, Minnesota. He worked for farmers in that vicinity. Here he came under the influence of our church, and was awakened and converted at the age of 22 under the labor of Rev. Geo. von Eschen. Soon he felt the call to the ministry, but hesitated to obey. He took an active part in the church and was soon elected as exhorter and Sunday-school superintendent, which offices he filled creditably. Finally Presiding Elder John Hammeter persuaded him in the fall of 1865 to go to the aid of Wm. Gies on the extensive Hutchinson Mission. The Hay Creek congregation then gave him his recommendation, and the Iowa Conference, in session at East Prairie, under the chairmanship of Bishop Escher, licensed him as preacher on probation in the spring of 1866, and received him into the itinerancy. In 1868 he was ordained as deacon, and in 1870 as elder.

Brother Kienholz was a powerful preacher, quite emotional, fiery and full of optimism. In his intercourse with the people he was friendly and talkative. He made many friends throughout the conference. At district meetings he took a leading part in the discussion of the various essays. He was blessed with a strong voice, which could be heard a great distance when he preached at camp meetings. A hard-hearing man, who always took the front pew in the church that he might understand a little of the sermon, was asked whether he could understand Kienholz. With a smile he said: "Yes, I can understand him when I am still outside of the church." Brother K. saw much hard pioneer work, drove many miles per horse and buggy, preached many sermons, and performed numerous official functions. God gave him a long, useful life.

He was married to Augusta Lenz, March 10, 1863, with whom he had six children, three of whom died early. His wife died August 8, 1874, leaving him with three small children. On May 14, 1875, he entered the marriage relation with Caroline Wasem. This union was blessed with three children, one of whom died in infancy.

Rev. J. Kienholz, after the above biography had been written for the Minnesota Conference History, went to his eternal reward on Wednesday, Nov. 29th, 1922. Funeral services were held at St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 4th. His widow, 3 sons and 2 daughters remain to mourn their loss.

The last of the charter members holding his membership in the Minnesota Conference to the very end has joined the great throng above. Honor to his memory!

(As the book had already gone over the press, we insert this biography here.)

PART I

History of the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association

Early History of Minnesota

In order to give the reader a clearer understanding of the history of the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association, I will introduce the work by a very condensed historical sketch of the pioneer days of this state.

The word "Minnesota" was the name of the Dakota tribe of Indians, for the river, issuing from Big Stone Lake, flowing down to Mankato, making a sharp turn at a right angle, and running on to Fort Snelling, where it empties into the Mississippi River. The name signifies gray-blue, or sky-colored water—from "mini," water, and "sota," gray-blue.

The regions, included in the present state of Minnesota, were inhabited by various tribes of Indians, previous to the advent of the white man. Groseilliers and Radisson, two Frenchmen, were, as far as is known, the first white men to set foot on the soil of this state. In *1655* they reached the site of the present city of Winona, from whence they proceeded up the Mississippi River in boats, which they had built.

In 1679, twenty-five years later, another Frenchman, named Duluth, reached the head of Lake Superior, from whence he penetrated to the shores of Mille Lacs Lake. He left a reliable record of his travels. In 1680 Father Hennepin, and two other Frenchmen, ascended the Mississippi and proceeded, with the Indians, as far as Mille Lacs. On the way back, down the great river, they discovered the great Falls, which Hennepin named after his patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua.

Le Sueur, another Frenchman, ascended the Minnesota River in 1699, to the mouth of the Mah-ka-to, or Blue Earth River. At the junction of the Le Sueur and Minnesota Rivers he built a fort, which he called L'Huillier.

La Perriére, with a small company of men, reached the site of the present Frontenac in 1727. They erected three log houses,

and surrounded them with a stockade 100 feet square. This post was held, and occupied, off and on, for twenty years, or more.

Thus far the French were the only explorers of this region. They came from Canada, along the St. Lawrence River and the great lakes. Their names were given to various places and bodies of water, so they may be remembered by future generations. The English succeeded them as discoverers and settlers. Jonathan Carver was the first English descendant to explore Minnesota soil. He landed at the site of the Falls of St. Anthony in 1766. He traveled up the Minnesota River, and again, along Lake Superior. Much of the time he lived in a cave at the Indian Mounds, along the shore of the Mississippi River, at the present site of St. Paul.

For years, there was bitter contention for the possession of all territory, west of Pennsylvania, between the United States and Great Britain, from the close of the Revolutionary War to 1796, when the British hauled down their flags, and marched out their garrisons.

In 1803 the United States bought from Napoleon the province of Louisiana, and took possession of it the next year. The cost of the upper part of the province, including Minnesota, to the government, was 36 cents per acre. Two great Indian nations inhabited this region, the Chippewas occupying the north and east; the Sioux the south and west. These Indians lived in a deadly feud with each other. They lived principally by hunting and fishing.

Lieutenant Pike claimed to have discovered the source of the Mississippi in 1806. He purchased the present site of Fort Snelling from the Indians for the government of the United States. In 1820 a company of soldiers arrived at Mendota, and began to build a fort, which was later named Fort Snelling in honor of the commander, Joseph Snelling.

In 1834, Henry Sibley, who became a chief factor, and held important offices, in the early history of the state, arrived at Mendota, as a representative of the American Fur Company. He gained great influence over the Indians.

The first white settlers took claims near the Falls of St. Anthony. The first hamlet was Mendota, settled by the French. The first settlement made by Americans was at Marine, in 1839. The city of Stillwater was laid out in 1843. Pierre Parrant was the first settler of St. Paul. St. Paul received its name from the first little Catholic chapel, dedicated in 1841, to St. Paul, "the apostle of the nations." In 1846 a post office was established at

this place. Minneapolis was not begun until 1847, and soon became a thriving lumber manufacturing city.

In *1849* Minnesota, having been detached from Wisconsin, became a separate territory, but extended as far west as the Missouri River. Henry Sibley was the first delegate to the Congress of the United States from the territory of Minnesota. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, was appointed its first Governor. It contained 4780 inhabitants. The first legislature met at St. Paul, Sept. 4, 1849, consisting of nine councilors and eighteen representatives.

Beginning with the year 1855 a great influx of settlers set in. They came mostly from the Middle States, but other states also contributed their quota. These began to break up and cultivate the fertile soil, and build homes for themselves. One drawback was the scarcity of markets, and their great distance from the homes of the settlers. Consequently they clamored for railroads. These were built in the course of time and brought the markets nearer to the settlements.

On May 12, 1858, Minnesota was admitted to the Union as a state, after considerable opposition in Congress. It has become one of the most prosperous states in the Union.

Origin of the Evangelical Association

The Evangelical Association originated in the United States of America. Nearly all of the many religious denominations of our country had their beginning in Europe or Asia. They are products of the Old World. During the latter half of the eighteenth century the religious conditions among the many Germans in eastern Pennsylvania were deplorable. Many of them had no pastors, while others had ministers, who were not in good standing in Germany, and, therefore, came to America to obtain a parish. The spiritual churches of this country did not labor in the German tongue, and thus these poor people were spiritually neglected.

During this time, through the Providence of God, one Jacob Albright came under the influence of converted ministers and laymen, and, after a severe penitential struggle, was happily converted into eternal life. Soon after, a deep interest was awakened in him for the spiritual welfare of his neglected countrymen, the "Pennsylvania Dutch," as they were often called. He began to preach among them, and God blessed his efforts with many

conversions. This soon gave him courage to continue the work, and soon some of his converts also began to preach. They fearlessly attacked every form of sin, and scathed the dead churches, which wrought great opposition to them and engendered fearful persecutions. In spite of persecutions they continued and led many souls to a real experience of salvation in Christ.

In the year 1800 Albright organized three "classes," which is considered the organic origin of the Evangelical Association. At the semi-centennial of our conference in May, 1917, at Faribault, Bishop S. P. Spreng related the following concerning the beginning of our church: "Henry Stetzel, of Pennsylvania, who knew Jacob Albright well, said to the General Conference at Allentown, Pa., in 1883: 'Jacob Albright, in 1797, called the leaders of his converts together for a conference. They conferred till late in the afternoon, when they grew weary, and were heavily burdened for their work, when they suggested going into prayer. They prayed on, and on, as only they could. They wrestled with God like Jacob at the Jabbok; they kept on until midnight, when they could pray no more. They began to praise, to shout, to weep for joy! Their hearts melted together like iron in the furnace. They embraced each other and laughed for joy.' In that night the Evangelical Association was born. It was born in an all-night prayer meeting."

The work spread out in all directions. John Walter, George Miller, John Dreisbach, and others were efficient co-laborers of Albright. John Seybert, who was a tireless and successful missionary, and later a bishop, was the most prominent figure of the church during the first half-century of its existence. He won thousands of souls for Christ, and carried the Gospel courageously to the new settlements of the West. The church owes much to the memory of Bishop Seybert.

The principal characteristics of this new church were true repentance, thorough conversions, and holy living. Its members were known for their integrity, honesty and whole-hearted hospitality. Their religious services were full of spiritual power and zeal. The missionary spirit pervaded the ministry and the laity. Such a church must, necessarily, spread out, and increase in numbers. God called this church into being for the salvation of many souls and for the improvement of the world. Many of its critics and detractors have had their mouths closed by death, while the church is still marching triumphantly on.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

1856

The Beginning of the Evangelical Association in Minnesota

During the middle of the nineteenth century many people of the eastern states moved westward, where the country was sparsely settled and land cheap, to secure and found homes of their own. Among these immigrants were some Evangelical families who settled in the territory of Minnesota. Who the first Evangelical family, to settle here, was, has not been recorded. Undoubtedly some of them settled in different parts of the territory during that early period. These Evangelicals brought along their Christianity and their loyalty to their church. They kept up their family worship, and even held religious public worship, at places, without a pastor. But they longed for their spiritual shepherds, and for the preaching of the Word of God.

A Macedonian Call

The Gagstetter and Laschinger families had come from Canada, where they were staunch members of the Evangelical Association, and settled about five miles south of the little city of St. Paul. They keenly felt the want of an Evangelical minister, and of religious services, so they wrote to their former pastor in Canada, and through him requested the Canada Conference to send them a minister. This conference did not feel able to grant the request, but referred the question to the bishop. The bishop laid this matter before the Wisconsin Conference in the spring of 1856. The Wisconsin Conference was organized at this time, its territory having formerly belonged to the Illinois Conference. Both conferences held their sessions at Freeport, Illinois, in the spring of 1856.

Here the Wisconsin Conference took the first steps to supply Minnesota with an Evangelical minister. It formed a Minnesota Mission and supplied it with father J. G. Esslinger. On account of sickness he could not occupy his new and important field, and thus it remained without a pastor for another six months. In the meantime the Presiding Elders of the Wisconsin Conference took action, and stationed Andrew Tarnutzer, who was then a young man, full of youthful vigor, on the Minnesota Mission.

Another action of the aforesaid sessions of the Illinois and Wisconsin Conferences, and which meant so much for the future history of the Evangelical Association in Minnesota, was the

1856

licensing of William Stegner and Andrew Strohmeier to the ministry. Stegner spent his first years in the ministry in the Wisconsin, and Strohmeier his in the Illinois and Iowa Conferences.

Brother Tarnutzer left his field of labor in Wisconsin in the fall of the year in quest of his new appointment. He crossed the Mississippi River at Winona in November, 1856, and set foot on Minnesota soil. As far as is known, he was the first Evangelical minister in Minnesota. He at once set to work to find Evangelical families, of which he found a few near Rollingstone, Winona Co., namely, the Blanchards, Wasems and Brauns. He remained in Winona and vicinity a few months, visiting the few families he could find, and preaching for them. Here he sold his horse and then started out for St. Paul, which was to be the base of his work. He made the trip by the old-time stage-coach, for there were no railroads in Minnesota at that time.

1857

Rev. Tarnutzer arrived in St. Paul in February, 1857, and proceeded to find the Evangelical families located here. He soon found the Gagstetter and Laschinger families, who were overjoyed at the arrival of an Evangelical minister, and they received him like an angel of God. Here, five miles south of St. Paul, he took up his first preaching appointment, and served it as regularly as circumstances would permit. On March second, 1857, he organized a class of members at this point. Michael Gagstetter was elected as class-leader. It is important to note that the *first* Evangelical class in Minnesota was organized on *March 2, 1857*, five miles south of St. Paul, which was later known as the Salem's society, and that *M. Gagstetter* was the *first class-leader*.

Brother Tarnutzer also found Evangelical families in the city of St. Paul, which was then only a small place. He began to preach for them soon after his arrival and succeeded in gathering a small class, which he organized on March 7th, five days after the first class. Ferdinand Dieter was elected class-leader, being the second in the state. Of course the young missionary found no commodious churches in which to hold his services, but, in most instances, preached in small dwelling houses. Very soon the small flock in St. Paul felt the need of a church in which to worship; this, together with the confidence in the future success of the work, induced them to buy a lot for a church, on the corner of 11th and Pine Streets.

1857

In March of the same year, Brother Tarnutzer made a tour of inspection to East Prairie, east of Faribault. Here he found a few Evangelical families, among whom were Christian Erb, George P. Wolf, and Frederick Zimmerman. Erb and Wolf had settled there in 1855. They had anxiously waited for the coming of a minister of their church. They had also gone through tribulation, for father Wolf had died shortly before Tarnutzer's arrival. They gave the minister a hearty welcome. He preached in the home of mother Wolf.

The conference year was drawing to a close, and Rev. Tarnutzer had a long distance to go to the annual session of his conference, so he had to start on the trip several weeks before, so as to arrive there on time. He had made a good beginning on the Minnesota Mission during the six months which he served it. With high expectations he went to conference and reported conditions in Minnesota in such a way that the Wisconsin Conference felt justified in sending a greater force of workers into this new and promising field.

The Second Year—1857

At the session of the Wisconsin Conference, near Jefferson, Wis., under the chairmanship of Bishop Seybert, the work in Minnesota found favorable consideration. It was formed into three missions: the St. Paul, the St. Peter, and the Winona Missions. Rev. Tarnutzer and Rev. August Huelster were stationed on the first two, and Rev. L. von Wald and Geo. von Eschen served Winona, in connection with Buffalo County Mission in Wisconsin.

The brethren Tarnutzer and Aug. Huelster were both ordained as deacons at this conference session, after having preached two years. One was not preferred before the other, and so both worked together harmoniously on their extensive mission field. Rev. Huelster traveled 560 miles from his home in Wisconsin to St. Paul, nearly all the way with horse and buggy, and arrived there May 29, 1857. The same evening, a Friday evening, he preached his first sermon in Minnesota in Jacob Hauk's house on Romans 5: 5 to about 20 persons.

Since a new church was to be built in St. Paul, during the summer, and one of the ministers was to oversee this work, and to collect funds for it on various fields of the conference, and, whereas, Rev. Tarnutzer had started the undertaking, and was

quite well acquainted by this time, they agreed that he should preach mostly in St. Paul, and Huelster should serve the outlying points, and look up new appointments, during the first half of the year.

The First Camp Meeting

J. G. Escher, familiarly known as George Escher, a brother of J. J. Escher, so favorably known in the Evangelical Association as Bishop Escher, was Presiding Elder, and had the supervision of the Minnesota missions. He was a powerful preacher and a tireless missionary. He arranged for a camp meeting in this new territory, which was quite an undertaking, when there were so few members, and widely scattered. It was held on the farm of M. Gagstetter, five miles south of St. Paul, from July 1st to 6th. After the ground had been prepared, seven tents were erected, and two covered wagons were placed in line. This was a respectable camp for so early a period. The Presiding Elder, George Escher, was assisted by the ministers L. von Wald, A. Tarnutzer and Aug. Huelster. Each preached four times during the meeting. The Spirit of God used the Word of God for the salvation of precious souls. Nine persons, among them Jacob Bosshardt and wife, of East Prairie, were happily converted into eternal life, and eleven joined the church. The manifestation of the grace of God was an encouragement to ministers and laity of this new field, and they felt themselves repaid for their efforts. It was the first of many blessed camp meetings in Minnesota.

New Appointments

Brother Huelster was filled with missionary zeal, and went wherever he found German settlements who would allow him to preach for them. In those days many German families were without preaching services for several years and were glad when a minister came, who could speak to them in their mother tongue. They were not so particular about what denomination he represented. Some of them had not heard a sermon since they left Germany, and were eager to hear the Word of God preached again. Especially were those desirous for an Evangelical minister, who belonged to the Evangelical Association, before they came to Minnesota. Very often they wrote to the nearest Evangelical minister, or to the Presiding Elder, begging that an Evangelical

preacher might visit them. Sometimes their relatives or other members of the church informed the pastors of the location of members in new regions. Thus Rev. Huelster was kept busy during the summer of 1857 looking up new points.

On June 2nd he made a trip to Crow River, which, he says, was 37 miles from St. Paul. He found great swarms of blood-thirsty mosquitos, who tormented man and beast. Because it had previously rained considerably, the river was high, and when he crossed it, there being no bridge, he and his horse were nearly drowned. His grip was carried away by the stream, and he never recovered it again. The water was from 8 to 10 feet deep where he forded. He preached for the people that evening, and had a blessed service.

On June 11th, in company of J. Dieter, he went to East Prairie, where he visited the people during the week, and preached to them on Sunday afternoon, in the home of father Weh. On the return trip he passed through Hastings. During the latter part of June he discovered a German settlement near New Trier, Dakota County, and received permission to preach for the people. The families Bachun, Ista, Eigenbrod, Kaufmann, Bunse, Haverland, Schwen, and others lived here. They were poor in temporal affairs and in spiritual. At the beginning of September he explored new territory and landed about 14 miles east of St. Peter, in a dense forest, where he found a German settlement, which had not seen a German miinster since they lived there. A man named Karow received him into his home, and he preached for the people that evening. From Karows he went to St. Peter, where he remained over Sunday. A small Swedish church was tendered him for services, and he preached there in the afternoon to about ten persons. From St. Peter he went westward 30 miles, till he came to a family named Lauer, living near the Big Cottonwood River. Mrs. Lauer had been a member of our church in Wisconsin. Brother Huelster had their address. He preached here to about 25 persons. On his next trip, during the latter part of October, he preached in the home of a Mr. Meier in New Ulm to 8 persons in the house, and many more, who stood outside. Undoubtedly these efforts of Rev. Huelster were the beginning of our work in the central southern part of the state. The beginning was small and difficult, but the Lord blessed the efforts of his servant, and the seed sown in that year later sprang up and bore fruit for our future work and heaven.

1857

The First Church

St. Paul has the honor of having had the first church of the Evangelical Association in Minnesota. It was located on the corner of 11th and Pine Streets. It was 32 feet by 44 feet, and had no tower.* It cost $2400.00. Rev. Tarnutzer had done considerable collecting in the city, and on outside fields, and thus the funds were supplied for this undertaking. The ministers and people looked forward with great anticipations for the day of completion, and the dedication of their house of worship. It was consecrated to the service of the triune God on Oct. 11, 1857. Two Presiding Elders of the Wisconsin Conference were present, J. G. Escher and G. Blank, both great preachers. Rev. Blank preached the dedicatory sermon on Sunday forenoon on 1 Chronicles 6: 40 and 41. The church was dedicated as the Emanuel's Church of the Evangelical Association. Nearly all of the remaining indebtedness was raised during the dedication services. The brethren Tarnutzer and Huelster greatly rejoiced over the successful completion of this undertaking. Two precious souls were converted, which was considered the sanction of God for their efforts. This church was used for 29 years, when it made room for a larger and better one.

FIRST PINE STREET CHURCH, ST. PAUL

In 1857 Rev. L. von Wald, who served Winona Mission, pressed on to Preston, where he preached to a number of German families, some of whom had come from Canada. Then he went about 35 miles farther to Pleasant Grove, where he took up a regular appointment. He also served Winona and Rollingstone as regularly as he could. The missionaries had to travel hundreds of miles to make a round trip on these extensive missions. They often preached on week-day evenings, as well as on Sundays.

Revival Meetings

During the holidays, from Christmas to New Year, Rev. Huelster held a revival meeting at East Prairie in the home of mother Wolf. On the second evening already ten souls were

*The tower was added later.

1857

penitent, and the power of God manifested itself. Frederick Knauss and wife and John Bollenbach and wife were converted during that meeting. Several weeks later he held another protracted meeting at the same place. In all 13 souls were saved.

Shortly before conference Brother Huelster found a German settlement near Maple Grove, and preached for them on Good Friday. Here he found the Sausele and Schneider families.

1858

In May, 1858, the Wisconsin Conference met at Honey Creek, Sauk County, under the chairmanship of Bishop J. Long. The encouraging reports the Minnesota brethren gave of the work induced the conference to again increase the working force. Five men were sent to the new state, for Minnesota was made a state of the Union at about that time. L. von Wald and G. von Eschen were again stationed on Winona Mission; A. Tarnutzer, on St. Paul; Aug. Huelster and John Schmitt, on St. Peter. It was the same force as the previous year, with the addition of the young brother Schmitt.

Second Camp Meeting

During the summer of 1858 the second camp meeting was held, south of St. Paul, on the farm of Adam Laschinger. Thirteen precious souls were converted. The conversions were preceded by thorough repentance.

In September of this year an evangelistic meeting was held near Pleasant Grove. Presiding Elder J. G. Escher led it, and was assisted by Revs. L. von Wald, G. von Eschen, and Aug. Huelster. The power of God manifested itself wonderfully during this meeting, especially on Sunday evening. All but two persons fell upon their knees and cried to God for mercy.

The Presiding Elder made a tour of inspection in company with Rev. Huelster, who transported him from place to place with his horse and buggy. Together they traveled 250 miles over all kinds of roads. They held services at East Prairie in the home of Bro. Knauss; the next evening at Karows; the third night in Mankato; the fourth evening at Lauers on the Little Cottonwood River. Here they held a Quarterly meeting. They prayed with penitents, of whom one, mother Muhs, was happily converted. Then they drove back, through Le Sueur, to St. Paul. On this trip the Presiding Elder preached twelve times.

1858

During the holidays Huelster and Schmitt held a revival meeting in a schoolhouse near Lauer's place. The word of God took hold of the people, and many were convicted of their sins. Some yielded to the Spirit of God, and others resisted. People came out from New Ulm to disturb the meeting, but the power of God deterred them. Twelve persons experienced the grace of God in their hearts, and twenty joined the church.

Another successful meeting was held at East Prairie in the home of Brother Knauss. Christian Erb got the neighbors together with his team and took them to the services, and back home again. It was at this meeting that William Hildebrandt, who was a Lutheran "Vorsteher," was converted. This meeting was held in the month of February. During this conference year 57 persons were converted and 89 received into the church on St. Peter Mission. The work on the other fields also prospered and made progress.

Sunday-Schools

The Evangelical ministers of those days were not behind the times. They took an interest in the young people. In 1857 a Sunday-school was organized at Preston, and in 1858 one at Pleasant Grove and St. Paul. Those early Sunday-schools did not compare favorably with those of our day. They had no lesson helps, nor much of a library. A German primer, a few tickets with Bible verses printed on them, and, possibly, some New Testaments, constituted the whole equipment.

There were 123 new members received, and at the end of the year the membership numbered 227.

1859

The Wisconsin Conference met at Racine, Wis., under the chairmanship of Bishop Seybert. The work in Minnesota had prospered so well, and the prospects for the future were so promising, that the conference felt justified in forming a district of it, and naming it, naturally, Minnesota District. It fell to the lot of Rev. L. Buehler to serve this district as Presiding Elder. He was a robust, strong, corpulent man, and a powerful preacher. A few new missions were formed: one south of St. Paul, called Cannon River, including East Prairie and Dakota County; another north-west of Minneapolis, named Upper Mississippi; St. Peter Mission was called New Ulm, and Winona Mission was

termed Preston. Tarnutzer and Huelster did not return to Minnesota, but received work in Wisconsin. The stationing was as follows: St. Paul, John Hammeter; Cannon River, Wm. Stegner and Conrad Lahr; Upper Mississippi, H. E. Linse; New Ulm, J. H. Schmitt; Preston, G. von Eschen and Joseph Rasskopf. These men were all new to Minnesota territory excepting Von Eschen and Schmitt. Of these men, two, Stegner and Linse, became prominent in the later history of the Minnesota Conference. The ministers worked hard, and had fair success. Hutchinson was taken up as an appointment, and in the vicinity of Le Sueur they began to preach. In Preston a new church was built, being the second Evangelical church in the state. The number of new members received was 118, increasing the total membership to 380. Now there were seven Sunday-schools, with 108 scholars and 41 officers and teachers. The members contributed $302 for salary for seven ministers. They did better for the missionary cause, contributing $358.81. At that time the people were poor.

The first camp meeting at East Prairie was held in June, 1859, on J. Bosshardt's land. H. Bunse was converted there and then.

In the fall of 1859, the General Conference, in session at Naperville, Ill., passed a resolution, detaching all territory west of the Mississippi River from the Illinois and the Wisconsin Conferences, and forming a new conference, called the Iowa Conference. This action caused considerable dissatisfaction in Minnesota, for the ministers and members felt very much attached to our work in Wisconsin, most of them having come from there. But after several years they accustomed themselves to the new relations.

SECOND PERIOD—1860

Minnesota a Part of the Iowa Conference

Once more, and for the last time, the Minnesota brethren made the long journey to the conference session in Wisconsin. This time the conference met at Jefferson, and was presided over by Bishop Long. The final transactions for severing the Minnesota District from the Wisconsin Conference were made. The Wisconsin Conference did the stationing for the ensuing year. The

1860

Presiding Elder, L. Buehler, did not wish to leave the Wisconsin Conference, so he resigned his office. Israel Kuter was then elected Presiding Elder, and stationed on the Minnesota District, and became closely identified with the early history of the Evangelical Association in this state.

REV. ISRAEL KUTER, P. E.

The work had progressed so that the number of missions was increased from five to seven. Winona was taken from Preston, and, with several other appointments, constituted Winona Mission. Le Sueur and surrounding country was formed into a new mission. A new feature was the licensing of a man as preacher on probation, who came from Minnesota. It was Christoph Brill from Preston. He was the first Evangelical minister from the work in this state. He became a leader in the conference in later years.

Bishop Long stationed the Minnesota District as follows: St. Paul, O. Ragatz; Winona, Aug. Huelster; Preston, John Hammeter and L. Seder; Cannon River, George von Eschen and Conrad Lahr; Le Sueur, Wm. Stegner; New Ulm, John Schmitt and C. Brill; Crow River, H. E. Linse. Thus the preaching force was increased from eight to eleven men. The new men were: I. Kuter, P. E., O. Ragatz and L. Seder. J. Rasskopf was stationed to Kansas, and Aug. Huelster came back to Minnesota after an absence of one year.

How the ministers traveled to their new fields is graphically described by Aug. Huelster in his book, "Gnadenwunder." They traveled with horse and buggy, taking their whole family with them. How they got their household goods to their new homes he does not state. Some of them were still unmarried, and the married ones probably had little or no furniture to transport. They may have bought a few necessary furnishings at the new place. Much of the furniture of those days was "home-made." There was the "home-made" table, bedstead, cupboard, and

1860

benches, and, possibly, a chest for the books or the clothes. There were no railroads at that time.

During this year the third Evangelical church was built in the vicinity of a little place called New Trier, in Dakota County, and at the same time a parsonage was erected at this place. It was the first Evangelical parsonage in Minnesota. Rev. George von Eschen supervised the building of both, and was the first minister to live in a real Evangelical parsonage in this state.

Camp Meeting at East Prairie

It was held in J. Bosshardt's grove, probably in June of this year. Ten tents surrounded the camp. Besides I. Kuter, P. E., and several ministers of the district, among them G. von Eschen, C. Lahr and A. Huelster, Bishop J. Long honored the meeting with his presence. It was the first Episcopal visit of our church in Minnesota. He preached powerful sermons, to the edification of both the ministry and the laity. People had come for a distance of 50 to 60 miles to take part in the meeting and share its blessings. The meeting was crowned with the conversion of eighteen precious souls.

First District Meeting

The first District Meeting was held in the new church at New Trier, in the month of October, 1860. Undoubtedly I. Kuter, the Presiding Elder, presided. These meetings have been held annually ever since.

During the fall of this year Rev. John Schmitt made a trip into Faribault County and found several German settlements, which he took up as appointments. That was the beginning of our prosperous work near Blue Earth.

During the year 243 new members were received and the total membership was increased to 430. The Minnesota District now had three churches and two parsonages. For missionary purposes $844.14 were raised.

1861

At the close of the conference year, the ministers journeyed to the conference session at Grand View, Iowa, beginning May 29th, 1861. Some went per horse and buggy, and others descended the Mississippi on a steamboat. Bishop W. W. Orwig presided. Rev. Orwig was a very able man. He had been editor of the

1861

Christliche Botschafter, and taken a leading part in the deliberations of the various church organizations. He was elected bishop in 1859, at Naperville, Ill., and served four years. Failing in a re-election, he was again placed in charge of the *Botschafter.* August Nierens, who had been a local minister two years, was received into the itinerancy, and Frederick Emde was licensed to preach and received into the itinerancy, both from Minnesota. C. Lahr and J. Rasskopf were ordained as deacons and G. von Eschen and John Hammeter as elders. A new mission, called Blue Earth, was formed of the appointments Affolders, Willmerts, Rice Lake, Finkes, Dromehausers and Donnels. The Lake Superior region was to be served from Crow River Mission.

This being the first session of the Iowa Conference, it might be well to give the names of the fields in Minnesota and the membership of each. St. Paul had 30 members, Winona 42, Preston 130, Cannon River 113, Le Sueur 56, New Ulm 97, and Crow River 62.

I. Kuter was again given the Minnesota District as Presiding Elder. The ministers were stationed as follows: St. Paul and Crow River, O. Ragatz and F. Emde; New Ulm, C. Lahr and Aug. Nierens; Blue Earth, J. H. Schmitt; Le Sueur, H. E. Linse; Cannon River, G. von Eschen; Preston, J. Hammeter and L. Seder; Winona, W. Stegner; Buffalo, Wis., L. von Wald and C. Brill. A. Strohmeier was sent to Maquoketo Mission, Iowa.

In August of this year Rev. C. Lahr pressed on from New Ulm to Paynesville, where he found several German families, among them the Baitingers, Riens, Plantikows and Helmers. This became one of his regular appointments, and was served by him and Brother Nierens alternately. Soon after they also began to preach at Stengers, near St. Cloud. Other new preaching points were established. The ministers vied with each other in taking up new appointments. If one went to the conference without having established one, or more, new appointments, he felt guilty of neglect of duty.

1862

As the conference met at the same place, Grand View, Iowa, as the previous year, the ministers were familiar with the way there. It convened on May 8th, under the chairmanship of Bishop Long. R. Dubs was appointed secretary, and J. Hammeter was his assistant. H. E. Linse, J. H. Schmitt and L. Seder were

ordained elders, and C. Brill deacon. H. E. Linse preached on Friday evening, and A. Strohmeier on the following Monday evening. Herman Bunse, of Dakota County, was licensed to preach and received into the itinerancy. He became a prominent figure in the Minnesota Conference and had the privilege to preach many years.

Two new missions were formed: Paynesville and Frontenac. Hutchinson, Paynesville and Stengers were taken from New Ulm and called Paynesville Mission. Several appointments were detached from Cannon River and constituted Frontenac Mission. Rattke's, Prior's and Silcher's were taken from New Ulm and added to Crow River Mission. New Ulm and Blue Earth were again united. Cannon River and Preston Missions were changed into circuits, thus becoming the first self-supporting fields in Minnesota.

Israel Kuter remained as presiding elder. The various fields received their ministers as follows: Cannon River, J. Hammeter; Preston, Wm. Stegner; St. Paul, L. von Wald; Le Sueur, J. H. Schmitt; New Ulm, L. Seder and E. H. Baumann (the latter was appointed shortly after the conference session); Crow River, O. Ragatz and Aug. Nierens; Winona, C. Brill; Frontenac, G. von Eschen; Paynesville, F. Emde. The personnel of the district was about the same as the previous year. There were two or three charges in Wisconsin connected with this district, the history of which I omit in this work.

Little did the brethren suspect what afflictions would befall the district during the coming year, when they parted at the place of the conference, to journey to their respective charges. It is well that we cannot see all that is ahead of us, or we would spend much more of our time and energy in worrying. Hardly had those ministers who had to move, become well settled and somewhat acquainted with their new fields, when the great "Indian Massacre" of Minnesota began in August of 1862.

Indian Massacre of 1862

During the years 1860 and 1861 many families had come from east of the Mississippi River, and especially from Wisconsin, and settled in different parts of Minnesota, to procure homes for themselves. Among them were many Evangelical families, who had been converted and joined the church in Wisconsin, Illinois and

other places. There were well established classes of Evangelicals at Beaver Creek, near what is now called Middle Creek, in Renville Co., east of New Ulm, near the present Courtland, and Cottonwood, and Paynesville, at Stengers, near St. Cloud, and near Hutchinson, and many other places.

The Sioux Indians and kindred tribes were still living in western and northern Minnesota, on reservations, under the supervision of the United States Government. They had sold much of their land to the government, and in return were to receive provisions and certain sums of money annually. The federal government was at war with the Confederate States, and thus was so occupied that the Indians were somewhat neglected. Possibly the Indian agents were derelict in their duty or even dishonest. The payments to the Indians were delayed from time to time, and they became dissatisfied and angry. They had been friendly to the whites and associated with them. The white settlers often gave them food to eat. For some time in the summer of 1862 the Indians held their councils and considered whether they should attack the settlements and kill the inhabitants. The whites noticed that some of the Indians acted cross, but paid little attention to it. On Sunday, Aug. 17th, which was a beautiful summer day, the Evangelical people met at their places of worship and held their religious services as usual.

At Middle Creek they met at the home of Gottlieb Mannweiler (according to some reports, at the home of a Mr. Lettau), an uncle of the writer of this history. Mannweiler was the Superintendent of the Sunday-school. As was his custom, so on this Sunday, he distributed the little blue tickets with a verse of Scripture on them, and told the children: "Now you have nine tickets, and today you will receive the tenth. Learn this by next Sunday and bring along all ten tickets, and then you will get a red ticket in exchange for the blue ones." The children were eager to get the red tickets; but little did they suspect that they never would get them. Then Rev. L. Seder preached to them. It is estimated that there were over 100 persons present, and many had to remain outside of the house to listen to the sermon. Brother Seder preached twice on that Sunday, little thinking that they were his last sermons. It is reported that he preached with unusual power. From various sources it was reported that friendly Indians had warned the settlers of an impending outbreak of the Sioux, but they were loth to believe it. On said Sunday, after the preaching

service, the subject was considered, and some of them decided it would be best to leave their homes and seek shelter.

Brother Seder had started for his home, after having called on a few families on Monday evening. He had not driven over a mile or two, when the Indians overtook him and shot him in his buggy. Then they dumped him out of the buggy and hastened away with his rig.

Mannweiler was the son-in-law of father Lenz. The former lived, where later the Schumacher family resided; and the latter, where later Frank Schumacher lived. They agreed on Sunday that on Monday they would leave the neighborhood. They had some hay which they wanted to stack on Monday forenoon. By the middle of the afternoon they were ready to go, having loaded their household goods and gotten their cattle together. Mr. Mannweiler was on foot, driving the oxen and cattle, while his wife was riding on the wagon. Suddenly the Indians dashed upon them and gave their weird warwhoop, which so frightened him, that he began to run, forgetting his loaded gun on the wagon. The Indians espied it, took it and shot him dead before he could escape. His wife jumped off the wagon and ran for the woods. The savages tried to capture her, but could not overtake her, and she escaped with her life. She later became the wife of John Kienholz, and lived many years.

The Lenz family, the parents of Rev. F. W. Lenz, took another road, when starting from their home, and were not found by the Indians, thus escaping with their lives.

The John Kochendorfer family had a few months before settled on what was later the Gottlieb Timm farm. The Indians came upon them and killed the parents and one little girl. The other four children ran away, and met the Lenz's at about sundown, at a river, and escaped with them to Fort Ridgely.

One of the most tragic incidents was that of Mrs. Justina Boelter. Her husband was killed, but she escaped and wandered through the woods for nine long weeks, with two children. One of the children died of starvation, and she and the other child were nearly starved when they were found by the soldiers. Her brother-in-law, Michael Boelter, whose whole family was murdered, escaped with one of his brother's children to Fort Ridgely. He was at his brother's home when the Indians killed his own family. He later married his brother's widow.

1862

At Courtland, five miles east of New Ulm, the savages killed a number of Evangelical members, among them Rev. Aug. Nierens, and a Mr. Richter, one of the prominent members. At the beginning of the outbreak these settlers had all fled to New Ulm, and were there when it was besieged. The men helped defend it. Among them were William Mannweiler, and others, who had been soldiers in Germany, and were of great service in this danger. After the Indians withdrew from New Ulm the settlers returned to their homes, thinking the danger was over. A party of Indians returned, sneaking through the woods and ravines, killing whom they found. It was on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, two weeks after the first slaughter, that they went along the Minnesota bottom, east of New Ulm, and killed a number of Evangelical members. Mr. Mannweiler happened to be out in the woods that morning, looking for his cows. When he returned, he saw that the Indians had been at his home during his absence, but had gone again. Thus his life was spared. He helped bury Rev. Nierens, who was his neighbor.

At Cottonwood our members fled to New Ulm. Later some went to Mankato for safety.

At Paynesville the Indians burnt the Evangelical parsonage. They did not kill any of our members. They did not stay long in that region, only passing through. The members had fled to Richmond.

Near Olivia lived a Mrs. Gross, who had been a prisoner among the Indians. At Wilton lived Mrs. Kraus, who was kept a prisoner for some time by them.

There are but few living now who experienced the horrors of that massacre. The Indians ravaged the women; they tortured and terribly mutilated those whom they killed. Some of their deeds were too horrible to relate in a book.

They also devastated the country near Hutchinson and killed some settlers. Little Crow, the leading chief of the hostile Indians, was shot and killed seven miles north of Hutchinson, the next summer, by a Frenchman, named Lamson. Lamson and his son were picking berries when, all at once, they spied two Indians not far away. The Indians saw them at about the same time. Both raised their guns to shoot, but Lamson was the quickest, and Little Crow was wounded, and his shot went wild. Both sons handed their fathers their guns, but this time the Indian was mortally

wounded. His son fled the country. The Lamsons then left the scene hurriedly and reported at Hutchinson what had happened.

The United States sent troops against the Indians. At Fort Ridgely, not far from New Ulm, the soldiers were attacked by the savages, and a number of them killed. At Birch Coolie, a little later, a troop of soldiers was attacked at four o'clock in the morning. About half of them were killed or wounded. The survivors held out until re-enforcements came and relieved them. The decisive battle was fought at Wood Lake. Here the white captives were released and taken east to St. Peter, and some to St. Paul. At these places some of them found relatives, who had miraculously escaped, but others looked in vain. So many children were left without parents.

This massacre, of course, diminished the number of Evangelical members in the state.

In June of this year a number of families came from Wisconsin in their "mover wagons," as they were then called, to locate "somewhere" in Minnesota, they themselves did not know where. One man owned a horse-team, and the rest prided themselves with oxen. The few cattle they possessed were driven along the way, following the caravan of teams. All their household goods and other belongings were in the covered wagons. Their progress was, necessarily, slow, giving the oxen and cattle time to graze as they proceeded. While camping for dinner near Chatfield, they spied a man on horseback, approaching them. On coming nearer they recognized him to be Rev. Wm. Stegner, who had been their pastor in Wisconsin, and now served Preston Circuit in Minnesota. Great was their joy in meeting some one, whom they knew, in a strange country, especially since it was an Evangelical minister. He also was much surprised to happen on to a train of his former parishioners. After the hearty greeting, the conversation, of course, soon turned to the purpose of their trip. After some explanation on their part he told them they need not drive much further to acquire cheap homes for themselves. He advised them to locate three miles west of Hamilton, near which place he had an appointment, which was about 25 miles from where he met them. They all bought farms there, paying about $3.00 an acre, and they and their descendants lived there for many years. This account gives an idea of how many of our early societies were started. The ministers often were an important factor in colonizing the Evangelical people in certain regions.

1862

Although the ministers worked faithfully and had good success, yet the losses were so heavy on account of the Indian massacre, that there was no increase of the total membership, it consisting of 640 members. The salary of an unmarried minister was from $68.00 to $89.00.

1863

The Minnesota ministers had to travel to Lisbon, Iowa, to attend the conference session, which convened there in a Lutheran church, on May 7th. Bishop Long ably presided. R. Dubs was appointed secretary. E. H. Baumann and W. Giess were licensed to preach. The former had preached nearly an entire year as supply on New Ulm Mission. E. H. Baumann and E. Weiss were received into the itinerancy. J. Rasskopf and C. Lahr were ordained as elders and F. Emde as deacon.

Some important changes were made in the boundaries. Hutchinson and the surrounding appointments were detached from Paynesville and constituted as Hutchinson Mission. The rest of Paynesville Mission was added to Crow River Mission. New Ulm and vicinity were taken from Faribault County and added to Le Sueur Mission.

I. Kuter, R. Dubs and J. Keiper were elected delegates to the General Conference.

The ministers were stationed as follows: I. Kuter, Presiding Elder; Cannon River, J. Hammeter; Preston, W. Stegner; St. Paul, L. von Wald; Le Sueur, J. H. Schmitt; Faribault County, J. Rasskopf; Crow River, C. Brill and E. H. Baumann; Hutchinson, H. Bunse; Winona, W. Giess; Frontenac, G. von Eschen; Dubuque, A. Strohmeier; Lansing, C. Lahr; Menominee, F. Emde; Cedar Falls, E. Weiss as assistant.

This was quite a prosperous year, for the net gain of members was 144, bringing the total membership up to 784. Some of the societies increased rapidly in numbers, and new appointments were taken up each year.

1864

The fourth session of the Iowa Conference was held at Dubuque, beginning on May 13, 1864. Bishop J. J. Escher, who had been elected at the last General Conference, presided for the first time at this conference. He appointed R. Dubs as secretary, who chose J. Hammeter and C. Brill as his assistants.

1864

Jacob von Eschen, a brother of George von Eschen, C. Werner of Middlebranch, and John Baumann were licensed to preach. E. H. Baumann and H. Bunse were ordained deacons, and C. Brill as elder.

An important action of the conference was the election of three new presiding elders, namely, R. Dubs, John Hammeter and H. Lageschulte.

Two fields in southern Minnesota were added to Dubuque District in Iowa, and the remaining charges constituted St. Paul District. The appointments, Maple Grove, Swiss Settlement, two others along the Crow River, and four near St. Cloud and Paynesville, were formed into Crow River Circuit. (And no railroads nor autos!)

A Carver Mission was formed. St. Charles and surrounding country were added to Preston Circuit.

The ministers were stationed as follows: St. Paul District, J. Hammeter; Cannon River, W. Stegner; Crow River, C. Brill and E. H. Baumann; St. Paul, H. E. Linse; Faribault County, J. Rasskopf; Le Sueur, F. Emde and J. Baumann; Frontenac, W. Giess; Carver, L. von Wald; Hutchinson, J. von Eschen; Preston, H. Kleinsorge and E. Weiss; Winona, J. H. Schmitt. In comparing the stationing with that of 1863 it will be noticed that most of the ministers had to move. At that time the law of the church allowed a minister to remain only two successive years on the same field.

At this time George von Eschen returned to the Wisconsin Conference, where he remained nearly 20 years, before he came back to Minnesota again. C. Lahr also returned to Wisconsin, where he labored for many years. I. Kuter was stationed to Lansing, Strohmeier to Dubuque, and H. Bunse to Council Bluffs.

It had been a prosperous year, for Minnesota now had 1044 Evangelical members and eight churches.

1865

This spring the Minnesota ministers did not have so far to go to the conference session, for it was held in the East Prairie church, near Faribault. This was the first time an Evangelical annual conference held its session in Minnesota. Bishop Long, who was to preside, did not arrive in time, therefore R. Dubs, the secretary of the previous session, called the conference to order, and was himself elected as temporary chairman. He appointed

J. Hammeter as secretary, who chose C. Brill and H. E. Linse as assistants. Thus three Minnesota men sat around the secretary's table. Bishop Long appeared in their midst near the close of the first day, and took the chair. R. Dubs was appointed secretary on the second day, because Hammeter was called away on account of sickness in his family.

W. Giess, E. Weiss and J. von Eschen were ordained deacons, and F. Emde as elder.

J. Rasskopf took his credentials and moved to Kansas, where he lived to a good old age.

A Mrs. McLane gave our ministers the use of a house and a church, which she had built, gratis, for a number of years, in the village of Frontenac. Her benevolence was recognized by the conference in a set of resolutions.

H. Bunse was again stationed to Council Bluffs, E. H. Baumann to Des Moines, and Strohmeier to Lansing. I give the appointments of the Minnesota men, who were for a year or more stationed in Iowa or Wisconsin, to get a more complete history of their activities.

Some changes in the boundaries were made. Le Sueur Mission was divided: the appointments above St. Peter were formed into a new mission called Mankato. The remainder was still known as Le Sueur Mission. Paynesville and St. Cloud were detached from Crow River and called Paynesville Circuit. The appointments along the Crow River were formed into Hennepin Mission.

There was a shortage of ministers for Minnesota, because several of those who had been in the state were given appointments in Iowa, and none were returned in their places.

The stationing was as follows: Preston, H. Kleinsorge and Elias Weiss; Winona, I. Kuter; St. Paul District, J. Hammeter, P. E.; St. Paul, H. E. Linse; Cannon River, W. Stegner; Frontenac, J. H. Schmitt; Paynesville, L. von Wald; Hennepin, to be supplied; Carver, W. Giess; Hutchinson, to be supplied; Le Sueur, J. von Eschen; Mankato, F. Emde; Faribault Co., C. Brill. J. Kienholz supplied Hutchinson part of the year, and L. von Wald served Hennepin from Paynesville.

The conference showed a spirit of loyalty to our country, for it deposed John Baumann from the ministry because he evaded service in the United States Army by escaping to Canada.

1865

The Civil War

About this time, in the spring of 1865, the great Civil War came to a close. It had raged fiercely for four long years. Many of the men of our church volunteered or were drafted into the army. Some of them fell in battle or died of disease. Thereby many of the congregations were weakened and the work suffered. They were years of anxiety, suffering and hardships. Prices were very high, and the salary of the ministers was low. Rev. H. Bunse, one of the pioneers of our conference, wrote: "The price of provisions during the war was high. Butter cost 60 cents a pound; eggs 30 cents a dozen; flour $12.00 a barrel." But the Lord helped his servants wonderfully and gave them many souls for their hire, which encouraged them and lightened their burdens. Nearly all the people were poor at that time, were plainly dressed, lived in log huts, had little money, but were hungry for and appreciated the Word of God.

1866

The people at East Prairie were so well pleased with the conference session in 1865, that they invited it again for the next year, and the ministers were so well satisfied with their reception and entertainment that they readily accepted. Thus the Iowa ministers had to make a second trip to Minnesota. This time Bishop J. J. Escher presided. The conference convened on May 18th. J. Kienholz, Aug. Knebel of Paynesville, and J. G. Simon of Crow River, were licensed as preachers on probation and received into the itinerancy. That added three good men to the working force. E. H. Bunse and E. H. Baumann were ordained elders, and M. Wunderlich as deacon.

At this time the membership had increased to 1173. Faribault County was divided into Blue Earth Circuit and Wilton Mission. The fields could all be supplied. Quite a number of the ministers had to move. The stationing was as follows: Presiding Elder, J. Hammeter; Cannon River, L. von Wald and H. Brauer; Blue Earth and Wilton, C. Brill and J. Kienholz; Paynesville, J. von Eschen; St. Paul, A. Strohmeier; Hennepin and Carver, W. Stegner and Aug. Knebel; Hutchinson, W. Giess; Mankato, H. E. Linse and J. G. Simon; Preston, D. N. Long and C. Werner; Le Sueur, E. H. Baumann; Frontenac, F. Emde; Winona, I. Kuter. Thus seventeen men were employed during this year.

1866

The name of A. Strohmeier appears for the first time in the stationing report for an appointment in Minnesota. The young men were all stationed as assistants with older men, which was of great advantage to them and to the work. They could learn much from the experienced, older men. The preacher-in-charge had the supervision of the field and performed the more important functions, such as baptizing, performing marriage ceremonies, administering the Lord's Supper, looking after the periodical lists, and settling difficulties.

Unexpectedly and suddenly Brother J. Hammeter, the Presiding Elder of St. Paul District, after a short illness, was called from labor to reward. This was a heavy blow for the small force of ministers in the large state of Minnesota. He was very much missed, for he was greatly beloved. He was a man of special talents, a good theologian, a good companion and a true friend. "He was very active for the cause of Christ, and did his best to increase the work in Minnesota, so that it might be formed into a conference." Rev. von Wald dedicated the following lines to him:

"So ruhe denn sanft, du treuer Streiter, du;
Du hast eine kurze Zeit treu gekämpft;
Nun triumphierest du; ach, nur zu bald für uns
Nahm dich der Herr zur ew'gen Ruh."

The following resolutions were passed at the next conference session:

"Whereas, Our highly esteemed brother and co-laborer, J. Hammeter, of St. Paul District, was taken from our midst during the past year and translated to his eternal glory, therefore be it

Resolved: 1. That we deeply and painfully feel his loss, for in him we lost a dear brother and faithful co-laborer, and the church a true son and thorough theologian, which loss seems irreparable.

2. That we yield with childlike trust to the providential dealing of God, hoping that all will be for the best."

W. Stegner, H. Lageschulte, E. Baumann, R. Dubs and Bishop Long spoke at the memorial service.

This was a prosperous year, for there was a large gain of members. At Blue Earth, Paynesville and other places successful revivals were held, which resulted in many conversions and accessions. The membership now numbered 1585.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

1867

In May of this year the conference met again in Grand View, Iowa, being the third time in six years. Bishop Long presided. R. Dubs was appointed secretary, and chose Anton Huelster and E. H. Baumann as his assistants. J. G. Knebel, F. Dreblow and Louis Mueller were licensed to preach. W. Giess and J. von Eschen were ordained elders. G. Knebel was received into the itinerancy. R. Dubs, H. Lageschulte, W. Stegner, H. J. Bowman, H. E. Linse and A. Strohmeier were elected delegates to the General Conference. These men all became prominent in the councils of the church in later years. Dubs advanced to the offices of editor and bishop; Bowman became editor of the English Sunday-school literature, and the rest served as presiding elders for a number of terms.

This was an important session for the work in Minnesota. Our ministers and members in Minnesota thought that the time had come to be detached from the Iowa Conference, and a Minnesota Conference formed. A resolution was passed, requesting the General Conference, which was to meet in the fall, to create a Minnesota Conference. The stationing was done accordingly. Such as chose to remain in Minnesota were stationed there, if possible. Preston and Winona were added to St. Paul District. Carver Mission was separated into Carver and Crow River Missions. Wm. Stegner was elected Presiding Elder to succeed J. Hammeter, deceased. This election proved to be a wise act, for it put a man at the head of the conference, who was a natural-born leader, a great preacher, a tireless worker, and a spiritual dynamo. He remained a leading figure in the conference until his death. The ministers were assigned to their fields as follows by Bishop Long: Cannon River, L. von Wald and J. G. Simon; Blue Earth, W. Giess; Paynesville, A. Knebel; Preston, D. N. Long; St. Paul, A. Strohmeier; Carver, C. Brill; Crow River, J. Kienholz; Hennepin, J. von Eschen; Hutchinson, J. H. Schmitt; Le Sueur, E. H. Baumann and J. G. Knebel; Mankato, H. E. Linse; Winona, I. Kuter and M. Zickerick; Frontenac, F. Emde; Wilton, C. Werner.

This was the last time the ministers of Iowa and Minnesota sat together in conference session. The fraternal spirit and the mutual interest between the two conferences remained for many years. Practically the Minnesota Conference dates from May, 1867, although it was not legally formed until the next May. The work in Minnesota was practically released from the supervision

of the Iowa Conference at this time. There were 18 active ministers, and the membership numbered 1585. While the work was connected with Iowa, it increased from 675 to 1585 members in seven years. This closes the Second Period of the Evangelical Association in Minnesota. It was a formative period. Many new appointments were taken up; many members moved in from other conferences, and many, who had but recently come from Germany, were converted and received into the church. The ministers of that period deserve great credit for their untiring zeal, their sacrifices, their faithfulness, and their thoroughness. Their reward will be great in heaven.

THIRD PERIOD

The Minnesota Conference

In the spring of 1868 the ministers journeyed to Castle Rock, Minn., to attend the conference session. There, on April 24, 1868, at 8:00 A. M., in the Emanuel's Church, the Minnesota Conference

EMANUEL'S CHURCH, CANNON CIRCUIT, WHERE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED

met and was organized. Bishop J. J. Escher presided. He opened the session by reading a portion of Holy Scripture; then a song was sung, and he led in a fervent prayer. Next he delivered an appropriate and touching address. Thereupon he appointed H. E.

Linse as secretary, who chose E. H. Baumann as his assistant. It is worthy of note, that Bishop Escher was the first chairman, and H. E. Linse the first secretary of the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association. Both remained intimately connected with it for many years.

It may be of interest to read the first assignment of the Standing Committees:

a. *On Worship*—W. Stegner and L. von Wald.
b. *On Letters*—I. Kuter and A. Strohmeier.
c. *On Finances*—H. E. Linse, C. Brill and A. Knebel.
d. *On Statistics*—E. H. Baumann, J. Kienholz and G. Knebel.
e. *On Boundaries*—The Chairman and the Presiding Elder.
f. *On Education*—C. Brill, A. Strohmeier, H. E. Linse, E. H. Baumann and J. H. Schmitt.

This may give some indication of how the brethren stood in the conference at that time. The largest committee was that on Education. All of the chairmen of committees, excepting one, were presiding elders in the conference at some time of their ministerial career.

There were no charges brought against any of the ministers during the examination of their moral character. The elders of the conference were: W. Stegner, I. Kuter, L. von Wald, A. Strohmeier, H. E. Linse, J. H. Schmitt, C. Brill, F. Emde, W. Giess, E. H. Baumann, Jacob von Eschen.

A. Knebel, J. Kienholz, J. G. Simon and C. Werner were voted their deacon's orders and were ordained by the Bishop on Sunday. E. J. Hielscher and John Drehmel were licensed to preach.

L. Mueller, G. Yahn, J. Drehmel and E. J. Hielscher were received into the itinerancy.

The report on boundaries in connection with the statistics gives a good idea of the scope of the work at this time.

The *Cannon* Circuit was the largest, having 280 members. Thirty-one persons had been received into the church during the past year. It had three churches and two parsonages, one at New Trier and one at East Prairie. It had at least six appointments. L. von Wald and J. G. Simon had served it during the year. It was now divided into two circuits: East Prairie, Prairieville and Kenyon were formed into East Prairie Circuit, and New Trier,

Castle Rock, Rosemount, and West St. Paul constituted Dakota County Circuit.

Winona Mission came next with 186 members. It was served by I. Kuter and M. Zickerick. They had received 25 members during the year. It had one church in the city of Winona, and a parsonage beside it. The appointments, Oak Ridge, St. Charles, Quincy, Wilson, La Crescent and several others belonged to it.

Le Sueur Mission came next in point of membership, having 151. Thirty-nine members were added during the year, which proves that it had some good revivals. E. H. Baumann and J. G. Knebel were the pastors. It had no churches yet, but had a parsonage. It now received one new appointment, called Truhns.

Paynesville Circuit had 150 members, having received 34 during the year. It had a parsonage at Zion, but had no churches. Aug. Knebel, son of the Zion society, was the pastor.

Blue Earth Circuit numbered 149 members. It had received no new members during the year. W. Giess served it. There was one church, but no parsonage. Rice Lake and Brush Creek and other appointments belonged to it, and Winnebago Agency was added at this conference.

Preston Circuit is reported with 132 members, having received 16 the last year, but had a loss of 17. It had two churches, one in Preston and the other at Pleasant Grove. There was also a parsonage in Preston. D. N. Long was the pastor. He preached only two years in Minnesota and then returned to Iowa, to remain there until he died.

Frontenac Mission had 91 members, 21 having been added during the year. F. Emde served it. It had a parsonage but no churches. The appointments, Rochester, Kasson, Pleasant Corner, Mantorville and Austin, were detached from it and formed into a new mission, called Rochester Mission. This gives an idea of the vast territory covered by some of the fields of those days. One minister had to serve it!

Eigty members are reported on *Hutchinson* Mission, of whom only 7 were added during the year. It had neither church nor parsonage. J. G. Schmitt served it. The appointment Schnakes, later called Rush River, was taken from it at this time.

Crow River Mission had 77 members, 19 new ones having been added the last year. It had one church and a parsonage. J. Kienholz was the pastor.

Hennepin Mission counted 70 members. Although 6 new members were received, yet there was a net gain of only one. It included Maple Grove and other points. It owned one church and a parsonage. J. von Eschen served it.

Mankato Mission, with its 61 members, stretched over a large territory, including New Ulm. It had one church. H. E. Linse was the shepherd. This field was altered much at this session. Practically a new Mankato Mission was formed, consisting of Mankato, St. Peter and Schnakes. The appointments west of these constituted New Ulm Mission.

St. Paul Mission had only 47 members, although it had existed for 12 years, since the beginning of our work in Minnesota. It had one church and a parsonage. The appointments were Pine Street and Salem. A. Strohmeier served it during the year.

Wilton Mission also had 47 members, and one church. C. Werner had been appointed as pastor.

Carver Mission had only 15 members, and was, therefore, the weakest field in the conference, yet it had received 11 new members during the year. C. Brill was the pastor.

At that time the conference did not believe in very large presiding elder districts, so they divided the conference territory into two districts:

Preston and Blue Earth Circuits, and Winona, Rochester, Frontenac, Le Sueur, Wilton, Mankato and New Ulm Missions constituted Winona District.

East Prairie, Dakota County and Paynesville Circuits, and Hutchinson, St. Paul, Carver, Crow River and Hennepin Missions formed St. Paul District.

Israel Kuter, who had been Presiding Elder some years before, was again elected to this responsible office, and stationed on Winona District. Wm. Stegner was left on St. Paul District. This placed much of the important business into the hands of these two men.

At that time the candidates for the Presiding Elder's office were examined, concerning which the following resolution was passed:

"*Resolved,* That the future examination of candidates for the office of Presiding Elder be held behind locked doors." How the candidates were obtained is not revealed. Probably the

first ballot was for the election of *candidates*. Then these candidates were sent out, and the conference discussed their qualifications for this office. This procedure did not last many years.

The above is an invoice of stock, when the conference was organized. It had fourteen fields with 18 active ministers, 1536 members, 13 churches, 10 parsonages, 32 Sunday-schools with 1006 scholars.

Education

That the conference took a deep interest in education is proven by the report of the Committee on Education, of which a few extracts follow:

1. Your committee reports with pleasure that the cause of education is receiving due attention. On all of our fields there are Sunday-schools, in which an interest is taken in the young people in and out of the church, which promises to be of great advantage to the future prosperity of the church.

Our ministers are also diligent in giving catechetical instruction. Yet we believe not as much is being done in this line as should be done, and in order that it may be carried on more systematically, we recommend the following to the conference:

(1) That all of our ministers be earnestly exhorted to perform their disciplinary duties in this matter.

(2) That all of our ministers organize catechetical classes wherever expedient, and keep a record of attendance, and of the advancement made in the catechism of each scholar, and turn it over to their successors at the expiration of their term of service.

2. We assure the agent of North-Western College that we take a deep interest in the welfare of that institution, that we will use our influence in favor of its support, and promise to assist him in collecting the money due the school, but request leniency with the *poor* people.

The following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, It is of the utmost importance, in order to be useful and successful as a teacher, to acquire a good education and training, and, whereas, some of our young ministers are very indifferent in this matter, therefore Resolved:

"(1) That we earnestly and emphatically request our young ministers to buy the prescribed books and to study them diligently.

"(2) That we herewith request the examiners to assist the students, by informing them on which subjects they are to be

examined, and, if possible, to give them an idea of what questions they will be expected to answer.

"(3) That any junior preacher, who remains away from the examinations without good cause, shall not be advanced in his course, and no minister shall be ordained as deacon or elder without having first completed the prescribed course of study."

To carry out the spirit of these resolutions, and to examine the young ministers, a committee of examiners was elected as follows:

On Theology: the presiding Bishop.

On Church History: W. Stegner.

On Grammar and Written Essays: H. E. Linse.

On General History: A. Strohmeier.

This was the first Board of Examiners in the conference, and these brethren served many years in this capacity.

Building Projects

Much time and attention were given to building projects. The financial report of the building of two churches and two parsonages was given. At Winona a church was built on which remained a debt of $611.00, and also a parsonage, which cost $864.71, of which $329.21 remained unpaid. The St. Paul parsonage cost $990, of which $852 was unpaid. At Wilton a church was erected costing $1470, which was nearly all paid.

Permission was granted the preacher at Winona to collect on the whole Winona District for the debt resting on the Winona property, and in case he did not secure enough he might solicit money on St. Paul District after the St. Paul collectors had gone over it for the debt on the St. Paul property. The St. Paul minister might also collect on Winona District after the Winona man had gone over it.

Provision was made for the erection of a church in Carver and one in Mankato, and if these projects were found feasible, the pastors of said fields should have permission to collect on the whole conference district. Thus permission was granted, provisionally, to collect for four different building projects over the whole conference. They were not afraid of overburdening the people with solicitors. Most of the members were liberal according to their means.

The conference had a fund of about $900.00, called the "Poor Fund," which was lent such societies as could not raise the money

for their churches at once. This money was later to be paid back into the fund. It served the same purpose as the present Church Extension Fund.

A Conference Church Extension Society was organized. A constitution, drafted by a committee, consisting of Bishop Escher, C. Brill and W. Stegner, was adopted. The officers elected for this society were: W. Stegner, President; C. Brill, Vice-President; H. E. Linse, Secretary; L. von Wald, Treasurer. Additional members of the Board were: A. Strohmeier, J. H. Schmitt and H. Bunse. With the creation of this board the building of churches and parsonages could be better regulated, and the work more systematized.

The missionary zeal of the conference found expression in a resolution, which ordered the Presiding Elder of St. Paul District, Rev. Wm. Stegner, to make a journey of investigation to the Lake Superior region, to ascertain if there were opportunities for establishing missions there. He carried out the mandate of the conference and reported to the next session that it was too early to start a mission there on account of a lack of people. This project was not undertaken until about 25 years later.

It seems that some ministers neglected to lift the conference collections as prescribed, so the conference resolved that any minister who would in the future neglect this duty, should pay $3.00 out of his own pocket. The leaders of the conference were strict and required faithful obedience from every preacher.

Salary

The report of the salaries of the ministers is not given, yet we know that it was small. The missionary appropriations for thirteen missionaries amounted to $2137.50, ranging from $50.00 to $430.00 per mission, or an average of about $165.00 per missionary. A few received extra appropriations, for instance, one missionary received 35 per cent "table expenses" and another 10 per cent. Yet the members at that time quite liberally supplied their pastors with the necessary provisions, such as flour, meat, butter, eggs, and also with feed for the horse and a cow, if one was kept. It would be well if this custom were kept up at the present time. Most families would not feel it much if they gave their pastor some provisions, and it would be a great help to him and his family, for the salary, as a rule, is scarcely sufficient to

permit him to buy even all the necessaries of life. The pastor's heart would be cheered and God's blessing would rest on the donors.

District Meetings

It was resolved that a district meeting should be held on each district. It will thus be seen that these meetings were ordered by the conference. This resolution has never been repealed. It is, therefore, obligatory for every active minister to attend them.

Recommendations

The last General Conference had passed a recommendation, giving membership in the General Conference to the officers of the Publishing House and to the bishops, when not presiding. Before that time they might attend, but had no vote. The Minnesota Conference gave twelve votes in favor of and two against said recommendation. It was ratified by the conferences and became a law of the church, and remained so until now, 1922.

Miscellaneous

Bishop Escher was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Stapf, parents of Rev. L. S. Stapf.

Many people attended the religious services in the evenings, and especially on Sunday.

Of the charter members of the society which entertained, only two, Jacob F. Stapf and Friedericka Klaus, were still alive, 49 years later, when the fiftieth session of the conference was held in 1917, in Faribault.

Mrs. E. H. Bauman and L. S. Stapf were present at the first and at the fiftieth session of the conference.

Incorporation

The first step to incorporate the conference was taken on the second day of the session, when the following resolution was passed: "Resolved that the Presiding Elder of St. Paul District and the pastor of St. Paul Mission be a committee for gathering information, during the year, concerning the incorporation of this conference." According to that, Wm. Stegner and C. Brill were the committee. This committee secured information during the year and reported at the next conference session as follows: "After careful inquiry, your committee has the honor to report

to the conference, that, according to the laws of this state, we as a body must meet at an appointed time, adopt a constitution, elect trustees, and the chairman, secretary, and all members present sign the proceedings, have them acknowledged before a Notary Public, and then recorded in the office of the Secretary of State at St. Paul."

The conference then appointed Monday, May 17th, 1869, at 2:00 o'clock, P. M., as the time to meet for the purpose of incorporating. H. E. Linse, C. Brill and L. von Wald were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for said purpose. At the appointed time the conference met and adopted the constitution, which the committee reported, which provided for the election of *seven* trustees.

Thereupon the following were elected as the first trustees of the conference: W. Stegner, C. Brill, A. Strohmeier, L. von Wald, H. E. Linse, I. Kuter, J. Schmitt. The trustees then organized, by electing I. Kuter as President; L. von Wald as Vice-President; C. Brill as Secretary, and W. Stegner as Treasurer. Most of these brethren served the conference many years in the capacity of trustee.

Following are the

"Articles of Incorporation of the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America, filed April 30, 1870.

Certificate of association made this 17th day of May, 1869, between the persons whose names are hereunto subscribed.

Article 1.—The name of this incorporation shall be known as the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America.

Art. 2.—The object of this society shall be the promotion of the interests of Religion in our midst, and the spread of Spiritual Holiness throughout the world.

Art. 3.—The members of this association shall consist of the members of the conference from time to time, as shown by the records thereof.

Art. 4.—The officers of the association shall consist of a board of Trustees of not less than five, nor more than nine persons chosen from its members in such a manner, time, and place as shall be specified in its by-laws, or by the Discipline of the Evangelical Association. The said trustees shall have the sole management and control of all the property of the association subject to the

present and future provisions of said Discipline and the provisions of the General Conference of the Evangelical Association, and may adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the said Discipline and the provisions of the General Conference and the laws of the state.

Art. 5.—The officers of said Board shall consist of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, to be annually chosen from among the members of the Board, who shall perform the duties usually assigned to such offiicers.

Art. 6.—The following named persons shall constitute the Board of Trustees for the first year of its existence; and until their successors are elected, viz.: Wm. Stegner; I. Kuter; C. Brill; L. von Wald; A. Strohmeier; H. E. Linse; J. Schmitt.

Art. 7.—The Board of Trustees shall hold an annual meeting before the last day of the annual conference, at which time the officers of the board shall be appointed, and an annual report shall be prepared, setting forth the doings of the Board during the past year, and the conditions of the property belonging to and in trust of the association, a copy of which shall be presented to the annual conference. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President when requested by three (3) trustees.

Art. 8.—All the vacancies occurring in the Board of Trustees shall be filled, and all the business shall be conducted in strict conformity with the Discipline of the said Evangelical Association and the provisions of the General Conference of the Evangelical Association.

Art. 9.—All conveyances of property to this association shall be deeded in trust that said property shall be used, kept, maintained and disposed of for the use of and benefit of the ministry and membership of the Evangelical Association of North America. Any real estate of said association held in trust for said Evangelical Association shall be sold and conveyed by the trustees in the corporate name thereof when the said trustees shall be authorized to do so by the annual conference in whose bounds said real estate is situate.

Art. 10.—This society assumes to itself all the rights, powers, privileges, and immunities which are now, and which may during the existence thereof be conferred by law upon societies of a similar character, and adopts as its by-laws the Discipline of the Evangelical Association and the provisions of the General Conference of the Evangelical Association.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this ——— day of ———— A. D., 1869.

J. J. Escher, Pres.
C. Brill, Sec.
Her. Bunse
Julius Hielscher
W. Stegner
H. E. Linse
L. von Wald
J. G. Simon
A. Knebel
I. Kuter
J. G. Drehmel
G. Yahn
J. von Eschen
Wm. Giese
A. Strohmeier
E. H. Baumann
John H. Schmitt
L. M. Miller
G. H. Knebel
J. Kienholz
C. Werner
A. Walch

State of Minnesota,
Goodhue County.

I, Lorenz Stegner, Justice of the Peace for Goodhue County in the state aforesaid, do hereby certify that Wm. Stegner, I. Kuter, H. E. Linse, C. Brill, L. von Wald, A. Strohmeier, and J. Schmitt, personally known to me as the same persons whose names are subscribed to the annexed Articles of Corporations, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that they signed, sealed, and delivered the said instrument in writing as their free and voluntary act for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of May, A. D., 1869. LORENZ STEGNER,

Justice of the Peace."

Thanks

The usual resolutions of thanks were voted the Bishop for presiding in such a tactful manner, and the Castle Rock society, for their splendid hospitality. An unusual vote of thanks was voted as follows: "Resolved that we heartily thank the brethren W. Stegner and L. von Wald for furnishing the stationery for this conference session." For a long time no one has followed their example and earned such gratitude from the conference.

Stationing

After due deliberation the stationing committee reported as follows:

Winona District: I. Kuter, Presiding Elder. Preston, L. von Wald; Blue Earth, J. Kienholz; Winona, F. Emde and L. M.

Mueller; Rochester, G. Knebel; Frontenac, E. H. Baumann; Le Sueur and Wilton, G. Yahn, John Drehmel and supply; Mankato and New Ulm, W. Giess and E. J. Hielscher.

St. Paul District: W. Stegner, Presiding Elder. East Prairie, A. Strohmeier; Dakota County, J. von Eschen; Paynesville, Aug. Knebel; St. Paul, C. Brill; Carver, H. E. Linse; Crow River, C. Werner, under supervision of H. E. Linse; Hennepin, Geo. Simon; Hutchinson, John Schmitt.

Thus twenty men were sent out to work as ambassadors of Christ during the year.

Worship

A Committee on Worship was appointed, and it reported, but the report is not recorded. It was resolved to open the daily sessions with a prayer service of 20 minutes' duration. This shows that they paid due attention to the cultivation of their spiritual life during the session. Undoubtedly there were preaching services each evening. Bishop Escher preached a powerful sermon on Sunday forenoon on 1 Peter 5: 1 to 4, in which he vividly portrayed the duties of every minister as a shepherd of the flock of Christ, the sacrifices connected therewith, and the glory that follows. The ordination of several brethren was a solemn service. A blessed communion service was celebrated. Great liberality was manifested during the missionary meeting. It was a day never to be forgotten by those present.

The business having been finished and all spiritually quickened, this first session of the Minnesota Conference came to a close. The ministers bade each other farewell and started out in the name of the Lord for another year's work in his vineyard.

Progress of the Work During the Year 1868-69

The ministers worked hard, but with varied success, so far as human minds can judge. On every field there were some conversions. (After this only fields which had ten or more conversions during the year will receive special mention. A lack of space forbids the mention of smaller numbers.)

L. von Wald, who served *Preston Circuit,* held a number of revival meetings. One was held in the schoolhouse at Middle branch, which resulted in a number of conversions. Many of the people had been members of the church for years, and thought

they were all right, but when von Wald came with his powerful sermons, they realized that they were not on a *solid* foundation. The best members went to the altar and prayed through into eternal life. The revival fire swept the whole congregation. That revival put that society on a good spiritual basis for many years.

At Pleasant Grove a similar revival was experienced. There von Wald, after preaching for several nights without any visible success, placed a "mourners' bench" in the front part of the church, and then called upon the officers of the church to come forward and seek grace. They came. That caused a break, and many were saved during the meeting.

Brother von Wald reported forty conversions for the whole circuit during the year. Many of those converts remained pillars in the church for many years.

Blue Earth Circuit had a good revival. Brother Kienholz was still a young minister, but a man of courage and of faith. A number of new families had settled here from Germany, and some of them were brought under the power of the Gospel. He reported 24 conversions for the year.

E. J. Hielscher had great success on *New Ulm* Mission. He was able to report 48 conversions for the year. He had good revivals on different appointments: at Nicollet, Cottonwood, and Redwood. He closed his first year in the ministry on his new mission with 85 members.

August Knebel reported 15 conversions and 33 new members for *Paynesville* Circuit, bringing the total membership up to 194.

One of the remarkable protracted meetings, as they were called at that time, was held on Crow River Mission by Rev. Conrad Werner. The services were held in private homes. The resistance of the Lutheran neighbors was great, yet they would attend, often for the purpose of seeing what was going on, and to disturb. Brother Werner was a fearless man, and bared the sins of the people unmercifully. They winced, but came again. Great victory followed his efforts. Some of the hardest cases were won. A number of Lutheran families were led to a saving knowledge of the grace of God. His meetings resulted in 22 conversions and 33 accessions.

W. Giess had 16 conversions on Mankato Mission; J. von Eschen 11 on Dakota Circuit; A. Strohmeier 11 on East Prairie Circuit; G. Yahn the same number on Wilton Mission. Other brethren had less conversions, but may have been just as faithful.

1868

Winona Mission capped the climax. Rev. F. Emde and L. Mueller reported 53 conversions and 55 accessions. Of course these conversions were scattered over a number of appointments. Several strong societies were built up. The mission now numbered 242 members.

On *Carver Mission,* under the pastorate of H. E. Linse, a new church was built.

Second Conference Session, 1869

At the close of the conference year, after much toil and sacrifice; wrestling with God in prayer; diligent study of the Word of God; some disappointments, and many victories, the ministers turned their faces toward East Prairie, to hasten to the second session of their conference. There had been two conference sessions held there before, therefore the ministers were well acquainted with the beautiful country and the good people of the place. After the preliminary meetings had been held, the conference met in regular session on Friday morning, at eight o'clock, May 14, 1869.

Bishop J. J. Escher, who was then in his best years, was present as chairman. He opened the session with fervent religious exercises. His opening prayers can never be forgotten by those who heard them. The whole conference would be melted to tears. Difficulties and hard feelings would vanish. A sort of blissful feeling would fill every heart. The Spirit of God would get the right of way.

Then came the opening address. Ministers and laity, who were present in large numbers, were full of expectation, and they were never disappointed. How he would, in a firm, but brotherly way, law down the rules for the Christian ministry! He would show them their weaknesses, but also remind them of the help of a faithful God. He urged them to study their Bible more, and to consecrate themselves fully to the work of the ministry. When these opening exercises were concluded, the conference was in a good condition to proceed with the business.

This time the Bishop appointed C. Brill as secretary, who chose H. Bunse and E. J. Hielscher as his assistants. The chairman at once announced the standing committees, which were partially the same as at the previous session.

1869

Undoubtedly some one had revealed some of the proceedings of the private session of the previous year, for a resolution was passed excluding any one from the examination who should be so indiscreet as to disclose what was done or said during that time.

The conference gained only two new men at this session. H. Bunse, who had already preached seven years in the Iowa Conference, brought his credentials and joined the Minnesota Conference.

Adam Walch, from Crow River, was licensed to preach. He served in the conference only a limited number of years.

Conrad Werner requested the conference to locate him on account of family relations. His wife had been lamed by paralysis, and they had a family of four children.

Boundaries

Several important and favorable changes were made in the boundaries of the fields.

Since Winona Mission had increased so in members, it was thought necessary to divide it into two fields. The appointments Oak Ridge, St. Charles and Quincy were detached from it and formed into Oak Ridge Circuit.

Wilton Mission was changed into a circuit and called Waseca Circuit, which name it still retains.

Le Sueur Mission was promoted into Le Sueur Circuit.

Frontenac and Rochester Missions were united, and were to be served by two ministers.

The appointments east of the Mississippi River were taken from Hennepin Mission, and called Sunrise Mission.

Rush River was taken from Mankato and added to Hutchinson Mission.

Paynesville and New Ulm were each to be served by two men.

Statistics

The year had been a fruitful one in soul-winning, for 280 persons had been converted, and 301 received into the church upon confession of faith. The total membership numbered 1743, a net increase of 207.

Two new churches had been built, and also two new parsonages, one at Hutchinson and one at Waseca.

There were then 15 churches and 12 parsonages. 581 *Christliche Botschafters* and 55 *Evangelical Messengers* helped to do missionary work. The last item proves that the work was nearly entirely carried on in the German language.

Resolutions

Bishop Long. It was Bishop Long's turn to preside at the Minnesota Conference, but, on account of sickness, he could not come. Bishop Escher conveyed his greetings to the conference during the opening services. A committee of three was appointed to formulate suitable resolutions. The chairman appointed L. von Wald, H. E. Linse and A. Strohmeier. They reported the following resolutions, which were adopted:

"Whereas fraternal greetings have been conveyed to us by our worthy Bishop Escher from our aged Bishop Joseph Long, with the additional mention that our worthy Senior Bishop was prevented by sickness to appear in our midst, therefore,

Resolved, that, with deep sympathy, we have heard of the grave physical condition of our Senior Bishop, and that we pray our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the destinies of every individual Christian, as well as those of the whole church, that he may richly comfort our highly esteemed Bishop in his present suffering, and restore him again to the church for many years of blessed service. Should God in his allwise Providence deem otherwise, and decide to call him from this earth, may he give him a glorious and triumphant entry into his upper kingdom."

These resolutions were sent by Secretary Brill to the worthy Bishop.

Living Epistle

A number of ministers of the church had united to publish an English monthly magazine, called the *Living Epistle,* devoted to the discussion and spreading of holiness. Many of the ministers and laymen took a deep interest in this project and subscribed for this periodical. The conference passed resolutions, expressing its appreciation of the undertaking and pledging its support. Mention was also made of a prospective German magazine, and hopes expressed that it would soon make its appearance. It was made the duty of every minister to secure subscriptions for these publications.

Sporadic. Some time during the year a poem had appeared in the *Christliche Botschafter,* which, in a veiled way, attacked Bishops Long and Escher, and tried to cast reflections on them. It was entitled "Sporadisches" and written by Solomon Neitz, a leading minister of the East Pennsylvania Conference, and several times a candidate for Bishop. The conference passed a resolution strongly denouncing said poem, and demanding the punishment of its author, according to the Discipline.

Scholarships. During former years agents of North-Western College at Naperville, Illinois, had gone through parts of the conference and sold scholarships for the college. These gave the purchasers certain privileges in sending students to the college, and cost $100.00. Some purchasers afterward demurred to the paying of them. The conference passed a resolution calling upon the people to redeem their pledges, and pay their obligations to the college.

Stationing

On Monday forenoon, near noon, Bishop Escher read the appointments. This is one of the important transactions of every conference session. With mingled feelings of hope and fear, ministers and laity await the stationing report. All eyes are fixed on the bishop, as he slowly, but distinctly, reads the names of the field, and then of the minister stationed on it for the ensuing year. Sometimes a minister's hopes are realized, but again he is struck as by a stroke of lightning from a clear sky. Often his inner feelings are manifested in his face as he arises to take his place beside his Presiding Elder. Yet it must be said to the credit of the Evangelical ministers that it is a thing almost unknown for one to refuse to take his appointment for the year.

Winona District—I Kuter, Presiding Elder

Winona, Gustave Knebel
Preston, L. von Wald
Oak Ridge, H. Bunse
Waseca, G. Yahn
Le Sueur, J. G. Drehmel
Blue Earth, J. Kienholz
Rochester, E. H. Baumann and J. von Eschen
New Ulm, E. J. Hielscher and supply
Mankato, W. Giess

1869

St. Paul District—Wm. Stegner, Presiding Elder

East Prairie, A. Strohmeier
Dakota, J. G. Schmitt
St. Paul, C. Brill
Sunrise, J. G. Simon
Carver, Aug. Knebel
Crow River, L. Mueller, under supervision of A. Knebel
Hutchinson, H. E. Linse
Paynesville, F. Emde and A. Walch
Hennepin, to be supplied

Seven or eight of the ministers had to move. Brother Emde was sent from Winona to Paynesville, where he had been pastor in 1862.

Appropriations

The report of the Committee on Appropriations gives an idea of the amount of missionary money appropriated to the various fields in those years:

Winona was to receive $200.00 for the ensuing year; Rochester, $470; Mankato, $280; New Ulm, $40; St. Paul, $300; Carver, $400; Crow River, $120; Sunrise, $230; Hutchinson, $75. Some money was appropriated for rent of halls and parsonages.

Worship

The report of the Committee on Worship is not given in the records. H. Bunse preached on Friday evening. Bishop Escher preached a powerful ordination sermon on Sunday forenoon on Col. 1: 28, 29. In the afternoon G. Knebel and L. Mueller were ordained as deacons, the Lord's Supper was celebrated, and a missionary service was held, at which $1,111.00 were pledged for the mission cause.

Farewell

On Monday evening, after the preaching services, the ministers formed a circle, and bade each other good-by. Many tears were shed as they spoke words of parting to each other. On Tuesday they left East Prairie to take up the work for a new year; one to continue on his old field, and another to begin in a new place and among new people.

1869

During the Year 1869-70

The greatest revival occurred at *Blue Earth*, where Brother Kienholz was pastor. They had a regular Pentecost, the power of God manifesting itself in an unusual manner. 47 souls were saved and 51 joined the church, which brought the whole number of members up to 235, making it a strong circuit. The effect of that awakening was felt in that region for many years.

Brother Yahn had good revivals on *Waseca* Circuit, resulting in 29 conversions, and 31 accessions, thus strengthening the work.

E. J. Hielscher, during his second year on *New Ulm* Mission, had another good harvest of souls. He reported 29 conversions, and 34 accessions, making the total number of members 150. J. Manthey was assistant pastor most of the year.

Brother Schmitt had the joy of seeing 23 souls converted and 33 join the church on Dakota Circuit. The brethren Emde and Walch had victory on Paynesville Circuit, resulting in 23 regenerations and 15 accessions.

St. Paul Mission had an awakening during Brother Brill's second year, resulting in 17 conversion and 24 accessions.

East Prairie, under the efficient leadership of A. Strohmeier, was strengthened by 17 conversions and 19 accessions.

H. Bunse had 16 conversions and 26 accessions on Oak Ridge Circuit; J. G. Drehmel 16 conversions and 19 new members on Le Sueur Circuit; L. von Wald 12 conversions and 11 accessions on Preston Circuit.

L. Mueller, the pastor on Crow River Mission, died on February 23rd. C. Werner was appointed to fill the vacancy until conference. He reported 14 regenerations and 19 accessions.

On every field, excepting Sunrise Mission, the work of the pastor was rewarded by the conversion of immortal souls. The total number of conversions reported was 283, and of accessions 342. The total number of members at the end of the year was 2052, a net gain of 309 over the previous year. That was well done for 21 itinerants, being an average of 15 members to each minister.

One church and one parsonage were built during the year. The church was erected on Le Sueur Circuit and the parsonage on Oak Ridge Circuit.

At that time the members were held strictly accountable to the Discipline. If they transgressed it in any way, charges were brought against them, and a church trial held. If they were found guilty, they were either put on probation, or expelled from the church. During the year 34 members were expelled from the church, as many as six from one field. Possibly, in some cases, the fathers were too severe and we again, may be too lenient.

The Third Conference Session—1870

After completing another year's work, the servants of Christ wended their way to Pleasant Grove, twelve miles south-east of Rochester, to attend the third annual session of their conference. The Pleasant Grove society was in a flourishing condition at that time. They worshiped in a little log church, built on a hill. In this farming community the conference went into session on Thursday morning, at 8 o'clock, May 12th, 1870. They believed in getting to work early in the day.

Bishop Escher was present again, and presided. The opening exercises were of the usual high order. Since the conference had never held its sessions in this part of the state before, it was a new occurrence for the people, and they had looked forward to it with great anticipations. They were eager to see the ministers and especially the Bishop, and to hear the good things they had to say.

The chairman appointed E. H. Baumann as secretary, and he chose H. Bunse as his assistant.

In Memoriam

For a short time a gloom was cast upon the conference, when it was officially announced that Bishop Long and L. Mueller had gone to their eternal reward during the year. Brother Mueller left, to mourn his departure, a wife and two small children. The conference appointed a memorial committee, consisting of E. Baumann and H. Bunse, which reported as follows:

1. "Resolved, that the notice of the departure of our beloved Brother Joseph Long, Senior Bishop of our church, and of Brother L. Mueller, a young member of our conference, has plunged us into deep grief, and we wish to express our profound sympathy with the sorrowing relatives.

2. Our worthy Bishop Long was too well known among us, to need any eulogy from us at this time.

The whole church is acquainted with his model life and exemplary conduct while here on earth, so that, although he be dead, yet he lives in our memory.

O! that the same spirit, which constrained him to consecrate his time and strength to the interests of the cause of Christ, might rest upon us, who are following him!

3. We, therefore, humbly bow to allwise Providence, who cannot err, even in calling a great man, whose place it is almost impossible to fill, from labor to reward.

4. Brother L. Mueller, yet young in years, and only in the third year of his ministry, gave promise of becoming a useful man in the service of his Lord. We, as a conference, greatly feel his loss.

5. May the Lord comfort the mourning relatives and friends of both brethren, and give us a happy reunion in heaven."

Brother Mueller was the first minister who died since the organization of the conference. His loss was keenly felt.

New Men

The conference was considerably cheered by the appearance of *five* young men, who were applicants for license to preach. They all came from various societies of the conference. They were:

Joseph Zimmermann from St. Charles, who served a number of years in the Minnesota Conference and then went to the Dakota Conference, where he finished his career.

August C. Schmidt, also from St. Charles. He acceptably filled a number of appointments in Minnesota, and then went to Dakota, and from there to Washington, where he died in 1920.

Julius Manthey came from Blue Earth. He preached in Minnesota until he located, and settled down in Blue Earth.

J. Lorenz Stegner haled from Hay Creek, on Frontenac Mission. He preached with success until he located, and spent his last years in St. Paul.

Peter Bott came from Cottonwood, near New Ulm. He preached a while in Minnesota and then went west to the Pacific Coast.

These five men were licensed as preachers on probation, and four of them were received into the itinerancy, namely, J. Man-

they, J. L. Stegner, A. C. Schmidt, and Peter Bott. Adam Walch was also received into the itinerancy. J. Zimmermann sustained a local relation for several years.

At this time ministers could be licensed and received into the itinerancy at the same time.

Ordinations

The brethren A. Knebel, J. Kienholz, J. G. Simon and G. Yahn, who had acceptably served for two years as deacons, were voted their orders as elders, and E. J. Hielscher and J. G. Drehmel, who had completed two years as probationers, were advanced to the order of deacons. On Sunday these six brethren were ordained by the bishop under impressive ceremonies. Thus the working force of the conference was considerably increased.

Rev. Roth, of the German M. E. Conference, was introduced to conference and received as an honorary member. He was a brother-in-law of Bishop Escher.

Boundaries

The achieved success on certain charges and the taking up of new appointments made changes in the boundaries necessary again.

"The appointments west of the Crow River; Borngesser's Class and the appointments at Buffalo Lake shall be detached from Hennepin Mission and added to Crow River Mission and the latter shall be supplied with two men.

The city of Minneapolis shall be taken up as an appointment and added to Hennepin Mission, which shall be called Minneapolis Mission.

The appointments in and about Sauk Center and farther west shall be taken from Paynesville Circuit and called Sauk Center Mission.

Centerville and La Crescent shall be detached from Winona Mission and added to Oak Ridge Circuit, and the latter shall be served by two men.

Winona shall constitute a city mission.

The appointments Frontenac, Hay Creek, Buchanan, Kasson and Pleasant Corners shall constitute Kasson Circuit.

Rochester, with several near-by appointments and Austin, shall constitute Rochester Mission.

1870

The two outstanding points in this report are:

1. Minneapolis, the most important city in the state, was included among the appointments of the conference, and a Minneapolis Mission formed.

2. The pushing of the work westward by creating a Sauk Center Mission.

Thus the fields were mapped out again for another year. The next important work was to man them.

Appointments

Some time on Saturday Bishop Escher read the appointments:

Winona District—I. Kuter, P. E.	*St. Paul District—Wm. Stegner, P. E.*
Oak Ridge, H. Bunse and supply	St. Paul, to be supplied
Winona, E. H. Baumann	Sunrise, C. Brill
Preston, G. Yahn	Minneapolis, G. Knebel
Rochester, L. von Wald	Dakota, J. G. Schmitt
Kasson, J. von Eschen	East Prairie, A. Knebel
Waseca, J. Kienholz	Carver, J. Manthey
Blue Earth, E. J. Hielscher and P. Bott	Crow River, W. Giess and J. L. Stegner
Le Sueur, J. G. Simon	Hutchinson, H. E. Linse
Mankato, A. Strohmeier	Paynesville, F. Emde and supply
New Ulm, J. G. Drehmel and A. C. Schmidt	Sauk Center, A. Walch

On Winona District every field received a new minister, excepting Oak Ridge. On St. Paul District only a few changes were made. After conference arrangements were made for C. Brill to remain in St. Paul another year, his third year, and J. L. Stegner was transferred to Sunrise Mission. G. Knebel had the honor of being our first missionary in Minneapolis. E. H. Baumann was made city missionary in Winona. On the whole it was a good stationing.

Finance Report

For the first time the finance report is given in the records. Wm. Stegner, as Presiding Elder, received $436.07 for salary during the year, and I. Kuter, $475.50. C. Brill received the highest salary of any minister, $540.50, on St. Paul Mission. E. H. Baumann was the next highest with $505.15, on Rochester Mission. A. Walch worked the whole year for $163.85. Such able men like A. Strohmeier, received only $390, and L. von Wald, $369.

1870

Quarterly Conference Records

The committee submitted a sharp report, criticising some of the records severely. It mentioned illegal transactions of some of the quarterly conferences. Several had expelled members from the church for not attending the quarterly conference sessions, and others had passed illegal resolutions.

Resolutions

Resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with our ministers in Switzerland, who were being severely persecuted, and joy over their successes.

Rev. von Wald was tendered a vote of thanks for furnishing the stationery for this session.

The society at Pleasant Grove was tendered a vote of thanks, and so was Bishop Escher.

Sunday-School Conventions

A resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of a committee on each district to appoint a place and time for the holding of a Sunday-school convention. Thus can be seen that even at that time due attention was given the Sunday-school work.

Evangelical Alliance

In those years a great religious gathering of various churches was held every few years, in which different denominations were represented by delegates. The conference joined other conferences of our church, in requesting Bishop Escher and R. Dubs, Editor of the *Christliche Botschafter*, to represent our church at that Alliance meeting.

C. Brill was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Religious Services

John Schmitt preached on Thursday evening; Bishop Escher on Friday evening; J. Kienholz on Saturday evening. Whereas the church was small, and a large attendance was expected for Sunday, arrangements were made to hold the services in the grove near the church. Pulpit, altar and seats were provided. The people flocked in from far and near. A large concourse of people gathered. Bishop Escher preached an ordination sermon.

as only he could. He ordained the deacons in the forenoon and the elders in the afternoon. Holy Communion was celebrated in the afternoon. It was a blessed time. Then missionary pledges were taken. The people had a heart to give, so that it was difficult to close the meeting.

Most of the people from other societies left after the afternoon meeting. On account of a heavy rain only a few assembled in the church for the evening services. A. Strohmeier preached. The Lord was graciously near those who could be present.

All too soon, after spending a week in the "upper room in Jerusalem," as it were, came the time to bid farewell again. Wishing each other God's blessing for the new year, and with a hearty handshake, they departed for their homes, to take up the work with new courage and vigor.

Glimpses of the Work During the Year 1870-1871

Although it is presumed that all the ministers did the best they could, yet some had more and others less success in conversions and accessions. Yet the figures in the statistical report are not always a true measure of a pastor's success. It remains for God to put the true estimate upon his work. One man may not have many conversions to report, but he may have prepared a field for a good revival, and his successor comes in and reaps the harvest, and—gets the honor, and a good reputation in the conference. Then not all *reported* conversions are real conversions. Some are illusions. It is comforting to know that before God every one will get his due reward.

Only one field, Sauk Center, had no conversions to report; two had only one each, others had more.

C. Brill had 10 conversions and 12 accessions in St. Paul; H. Bunse 12 conversions and 15 new members on Oak Ridge Circuit; F. Emde 13 conversions and 11 accessions on Paynesville Circuit, and on East Prairie Circuit Aug. Knebel had 18 conversions and 20 accessions.

On the old Dakota Circuit John Schmitt had 20 conversions and 26 accessions.

J. Kienholz had the privilege of leading 28 souls to Christ and receiving 30 new members into the church on Waseca Circuit.

G. Yahn, on Preston Circuit, succeeded in winning 28 souls for Christ and receiving 24 into the church. Among these converts was the writer of this history.

1870

Wm. Giess reported 29 conversions and 15 accessions on Crow River Mission.

But the largest success was achieved on the old Blue Earth Circuit. E. J. Hielscher and Peter Bott held a number of revival meetings, which resulted in an aggregate of 63 conversions and 48 new members, bringing the total membership up to 288.

During the year the whole conference had 230 conversions and 311 accessions, making the total membership 2223. There were 25 ministers at work. There were three churches built, one on East Prairie Circuit, one on Kasson Circuit and one on Hutchinson Mission. The work spread out, especially to the west and north-west.

Conference Session, 1871

For the first time in its history the conference was to meet in a city. Before it had always met in a farming community. St. Paul had been chosen for the honor. After the preliminary meetings had been held, the conference went into session on Friday morning, May 12th, 1871. To the great disappointment of the ministers there was no Bishop present. According to the Discipline, the conference proceeded to elect a chairman pro tem. W. Stegner was elected for the responsible position. He then opened the session with religious exercises. He presided only one day, for on Saturday morning Bishop Escher appeared and took the chair.

Rev. Stegner appointed H. E. Linse as secretary, who chose E. J. Hielscher as his assistant.

A rule was adopted, allowing only such ministers as were in connection with the conference to remain at the private examination of the moral character of the ministers.

Several charges were made and considered. In connection with these matters it was resolved that all ministers should spend the hour between ten and eleven that night in prayer, pleading with the Lord to guide them in these cases. This shows how sincere these men were. These trials cast a certain gloom over the conference.

Wm. Giess was expelled from the ministry and the church for immoral conduct.

The conference was honored by a number of ministerial visitors. Rev. Wm. Huelster, agent of North-Western College,

and S. A. Tobias of the Illinois Conference were received as advisory members. A number of ministers of the M. E. Church were introduced to the conference.

New Forces

Three young men, who proved themselves very useful during succeeding years, were licensed to preach. They were William C. Sydow of St. Charles; Henry Hensel of Crow River, and William Lenz of Hay Creek. They were also received into the itinerancy.

G. Knebel was voted his ordination as elder, and A. Walch, as deacon. These brethren were ordained on Sunday.

Records

In those early years, when the ministers had to travel much of their time, and hold revival meetings all winter, the keeping of the records was easily neglected. The conference, therefore, passed a resolution, obligating each minister to see to it that a book of records be kept on each field and the required entries made.

Recommendations

One of the recommendations to the General Conference was that the time limit of a pastor on a field should be extended from two to three years. The Minnesota Conference favored this unanimously. They voted on thirteen recommendations. Ten of these received all or nearly all of the votes of the conference, two were unanimously rejected, and one was referred to the General Conference.

Boundaries

A number of important changes were made in boundaries. The successes of the past year and the eagerness to extend the work required these changes.

Blue Earth Circuit was divided. All the appointments west of Blue Earth were formed into a field called Jackson County Mission. This was still a large field. The old Blue Earth Circuit was to be supplied with two ministers.

New Ulm Circuit was also divided. The appointments Nicollet, Redstone, Cottonwood, Cukoosberg and Timms constituted New Ulm Circuit, and the remainder of the former circuit was called Redwood Mission.

1871

St. Paul Mission was changed into a station, being the first in the conference. The western part of the city was taken up as a mission field and called St. Paul Mission.

Maple Grove and Osseo were detached from Minneapolis Mission, and together with the Sunrise Mission and the Schneider appointment constituted Maple Grove Mission.

The appointments above Alexandria were taken from Sauk Center Mission and formed into a Fergus Falls Mission.

Pleasant Grove was taken from Preston Circuit and added to Rochester Mission.

By creating the Jackson County and the Fergus Falls Missions the work was extended to the Dakota boundary line. Here it was that the ministers vied with each other to secure new appointments. Thus the conference grew not only in membership and finances, but also in territory.

Israel Kuter

For some reason Brother Kuter asked for his credentials. He had some trouble with one of the ministers on his district. In 1860 the Wisconsin Conference elected him as Presiding Elder and stationed him on the Minnesota District, which he served four years. Then for one year he was stationed in Iowa. From 1865 to '68 he served Winona Mission. In 1868 he was again elected Presiding Elder and served three years, when he resigned and left the conference. He moved to Illinois and joined the Illinois Conference. During the church trouble he joined the seceding faction. His last years were spent in Aurora, Illinois, where he died at a ripe old age.

Presiding Elder Election

Rev. Kuter having resigned, and Wm. Stegner's term of office having expired, there were two Presiding Elders to be elected. This was a very important part of the conference business. Brother Stegner had given good service, and was considered the leader in the conference, therefore it was expected that he would be elected for a second term. From among the other strong men in the conference it was not so easy to pick the winner beforehand. The choice fell upon L. von Wald, who was one of the first men identified with the work in Minnesota. He was an able and successful minister. He was stationed on St. Paul, and Wm. Stegner on Winona District.

1871

As delegates to the approaching General Conference W. Stegner and C. Brill were elected, and L. von Wald as alternate.

Stationing

The ministers were assigned to the fields by the bishop as follows:

Winona, H. Bunse
Oak Ridge, J. H. Schmitt
Preston, George Yahn
Rochester, G. Simon
Kasson, J. L. Stegner
Waseca, J. Kienholz
Le Sueur, J. von Eschen
Blue Earth, E. J. Hielscher and F. Dreblow
Jackson, Peter Bott
St. Peter, A. Strohmeier
New Ulm, J. G. Drehmel
Redwood, Aug. Schmidt
East Prairie, Aug. Knebel
Dakota, H. E. Linse and supply
St. Paul Station, to be supplied
St. Paul Mission, C. Brill
Minneapolis, Gustave Knebel
Maple Grove, W. Lenz
Crow River, J. Manthey
Carver, C. W. Sydow, under supervision of J. Manthey
Hutchinson, F. Emde and supply
Paynesville, E. H. Baumann
Fergus Falls, A. Walch
Sauk Center, H. Hensel

Counting in the Presiding Elders, 26 men were assigned work for the year. Eight ministers remained on their fields, and the rest had to move or were new men. Arrangements were made after conference, whereby C. Brill could serve St. Paul Station for the third year. He served it in connection with St. Paul Mission.

Religious Services

Wm. Huelster, Agent of North-Western College, preached on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning and evening Bishop Escher preached two powerful sermons. S. A. Tobias and A. Strohmeier preached in the German M. E. Church. On Monday evening H. Bunse dispensed the Word, and on Tuesday evening Bishop Escher gave them another sermon.

This session lasted unusually long, closing Tuesday evening. There was much important business transacted. Some men, who were present, said that they would never forget that session.

In the name of God all went home, with a new resolve to be faithful to the Lord and the church.

Another Year of Activity, 1871-1872

This year was not quite as fruitful in conversions as several former years. Altogether there were 203 conversions and 234 accessions, bringing the total membership up to 2376, being a net

gain of 153. On all the fields, excepting St. Paul Station and Minneapolis, there were some conversions. H. Hensel succeeded in leading 14 souls to Christ on Sauk Center Mission; Aug. Schmidt reported 14 regenerations on Redwood Mission; J. Drehmel had the pleasure of seeing 14 persons coming to Christ on New Ulm Circuit. John Schmitt had good revivals on Oak Ridge Circuit, netting 27 conversions and 33 accessions. It was on the Blue Earth Circuit where the greatest harvest of souls was garnered, 40 being saved and 42 having joined the church. Although a new mission had been cut out of this circuit at the last conference session, yet its membership climbed up higher than before, reaching 291. E. J. Hielscher and F. Dreblow were the efficient pastors.

Four new churches were built. One in Minneapolis under the supervision of G. Knebel; one on St. Paul Mission, under the supervision of C. Brill; another on Paynesville Circuit, E. H. Baumann, pastor; and the fourth in Rochester under the direction of G. Simon. There were four parsonages erected. One was a district house for Winona District, built in Waseca; a parsonage on Blue Earth Circuit, one in Waseca, and another on Jackson Mission.

The church on St. Paul Mission cost $1166.53; the one in Minneapolis $1587.83; in Rochester $1701.85; on Paynesville Circuit was valued at $2500. The District House was valued at $1000, the Blue Earth parsonage at $600, the Waseca parsonage at $750, and that on Jackson Mission at $150. It is quite interesting to compare these figures with those of the present day. The people of those days were poor, and were glad to get a house of worship, even if it were ever so primitive. The parsonages were not modern, but the members did not have modern houses either. Ministers were thankful to find any kind of a parsonage on their field. Material and labor were cheap, so a comparatively good building could be erected for a reasonble sum of money. Many souls were saved in those old, plain churches. What scenes they witnessed! Angels rejoiced over them!

Fifth Conference Session, 1872

For the first time in its history the conference met further west than the eastern part of the state. Emanuel's Church on Blue Earth Circuit was where it met for its fifth session. They met earlier in the week than usual, on *Wednesday* morning, at

8 o'clock, on May 2nd, 1872. The Blue Earth congregation was the largest that had entertained the conference thus far. Bishop Reuben Yeakel had been assigned to preside at this session, but on account of illness was prevented from attending. He had been elected Bishop at the General Conference at Naperville, in October, 1871. He served only one term as bishop. He wrote the History of the Evangelical Association, consisting of two volumes.

Bishop Escher was present and presided. He opened the session with impressive religious exercises, and delivered an effective opening address. He then appointed H. Bunse as secretary, who chose J. G. Drehmel as his assistant.

The preacher's license was taken from Elias Weiss during the year by the Presiding Elder. Weiss had preached one or two years in the first years of the work in Minnesota, and after that sustained a local relation.

Recruits

Frederick G. Sahr of Hay Creek, Michael Knopf of East Prairie, and William Oehler were licensed to preach and received into the itinerancy. M. Knopf had served as assistant pastor on Hutchinson Mission during part of the year.

Orders

P. Bott, W. Lenz, J. L. Stegner, J. Manthey, A. C. Schmidt and F. Dreblow were voted their orders as deacons and were ordained by the Bishop on Sunday afternoon. E. J. Hielscher and J. G. Drehmel were promoted to the order of elder, and also ordained on Sunday.

The coming in of such classes gave good promises for the future of the conference.

Boundaries

There were only a few changes made in the boundaries of the charges. Middle Branch and Links were taken from Preston Circuit and Rockdell and Brownsdale were detached from Rochester Mission, and together with Kasson and Pleasant Corner formed into Kasson Circuit.

Buchanan, Hay Creek and Frontenac were added to East Prairie Circuit. Mankato was detached from St. Peter Mission and called Mankato Mission.

Salary

The conference adopted the following scale of salaries for the ministers:

1872

Ministers on probation shall have not less than $175.00 per year
Ordained single ministers shall have not less than $250.00 per year
Ordained single ministers in cities shall have not less than $300.00 per year
Ordained married ministers shall have not less than $400.00 per year
Ordained married ministers in cities shall have not less than $500.00 per year
Presiding Elders shall have not less than $500.00 per year

Besides they were to have their traveling and moving expenses paid and a home free of rent. This was a small raise in salary compared with former years, but many fields did not comply with these claims during the first years, yet they did better than in former years.

North-Western College

Rev. John Schneider, agent for the college and Union Biblical Institute, was present, and presented the interests of these institutions to the conference. Bishop Escher also spoke in their favor. After considerable hesitation the conference promised by resolution to join the College and Institute pact some time in the future. This promise was not fulfilled for a number of years, but finally it was.

Stationing

When the Bishop and the Presiding Elders had agreed on the stationing of the ministers, the Bishop read the report:

Winona District—William Stegner, P. E.

Winona, H. Bunse
Oak Ridge, J. Kienholz and supply
Preston, Geo. Yahn
Blue Earth, E. J. Hielscher and F. Dreblow
Rochester, G. Simon
Kasson, J. L. Stegner
Waseca, M. Knopf
Le Sueur, J. von Eschen
St. Peter, A. Strohmeier
Mankato, W. Oehler
New Ulm, J. G. Drehmel
Redwood, A. C. Schmidt and supply
Jackson, P. Bott

St. Paul District—L. von Wald, P. E.

St. Paul Station, Aug. Knebel
St. Paul Mission, C. Brill
Dakota, H. E. Linse and supply
East Prairie, J. H. Schmitt and supply
Carver, C. W. Sydow
Crow River, J. Manthey
Maple Grove, W. Lenz
Hutchinson, F. Emde and F. G. Sahr
Paynesville, E. H. Baumann
Minneapolis, G. Knebel
Sauk Center, H. Hensel
Fergus Falls, Adam Walch

Only three of the ministers were compelled to move. Kienholz moved from Waseca to Oak Ridge; A. Knebel from East Prairie to St. Paul; and John Schmitt from Oak Ridge to East Prairie.

Religious Services

J. H. Schmitt preached on Wednesday evening; Bishop Escher on Thursday evening; John Schneider, of Illinois, on Saturday evening; Bishop Escher preached the ordination sermon on Sunday morning. In the afternoon he ordained eight ministers and conducted the missionary meeting, in which over $1300.00 was pledged for the missionary cause. In the evening C. Brill expounded the Word. It is worthy of note that the first two ministers who preached at Blue Earth were permitted to preach at this conference session. They were J. H. Schmitt and C. Brill. After having spent a week in fellowship with each other, amidst the choicest blessings of God, the ministers bade each other adieu, and went their several ways, to begin the work of a new conference year in the name of the Lord.

In the Harvest Field, 1872-1873

On two fields there were no conversions, and they were the new missions—Jackson and Fergus Falls. All other fields had some conversions. H. Bunse had 10 on Winona Mission; F. Emde had the same number on Hutchinson Mission; C. W. Sydow on Carver Mission, C. Brill on St. Paul Mission, and G. Yahn on Preston Circuit each had 11 conversions. M. Knopf had 12 on Waseca Circuit; E. H. Baumann 19 on Paynesville Circuit. E. J. Hielscher and F. Dreblow had another good revival on Blue Earth Circuit, resulting in 29 regenerations. In the three years that Brother Hielscher served Blue Earth Circuit he had 132 conversions.

It was the good fortune of *Oak Ridge* Circuit, under the pastorate of Brother Kienholz, to head the list with seventy conversions. Many families were won for Christ and the church. For many years those glorious meetings were remembered by those who participated in them. There were some remarkable conversions. Hardened sinners, confirmed enemies of Christ, broke down and cried for mercy.

Three churches were built: one in Mankato, another in St. Peter, and the third at Hollywood on Crow River Mission, under

the supervision respectively of the brethren Oehler, Strohmeier and Manthey.

The membership increased to 2424, a net gain of only 48.

Sixth Conference Session, 1873

This time the ministers went up north-west as far as Paynesville. There, in the Salem's Church, the conference met for its sixth annual session, on Thursday morning, May 1, 1873, under the chairmanship of Bishop Escher. Paynesville Circuit at that time had a membership of 160. Many of them attended the opening services. Bishop Escher led in a fervent prayer, and then gave an earnest and instructive opening address. The people of that church were earnest, sincere Christians. Nearly all of them came from Germany, mostly from Pomerania, and were soundly converted soon after their arrival in this country.

The chairman appointed H. E. Linse as secretary, who chose G. H. Knebel and W. Oehler as his assistants.

The ministers were all present, excepting H. Bunse, who was prevented from coming on account of serious sickness. Suitable resolutions were passed and forwarded to him.

That the conference did not neglect their spiritual life during the press of business, is proven by a resolution which set aside a half hour from 8 to 8:30, every morning, for exercising in public prayer. That certainly was time well spent.

New Help

Ludwig Passer of Blue Earth, H. Isker of Winona, and Frederick Moede of Paynesville were licensed to preach. These, together with M. Zickerick, C. Werner, G. von Eschen, and Ferdinand Ludecke, were reported as applicants for the itinerancy.

C. W. Sydow and H. Hensel were voted their orders as deacons, and A. Walch his as elder.

Examinations

The plan for the examination of Junior preachers was changed. Formerly five examiners were elected annually to examine all the students. Each examiner had certain branches in which he examined all the students. Now eight examiners were elected, two for each of the four classes. Thus two examiners examined one class for all of the four years in all the studies in

the course. The number of examiners for each class were later increased to three. The examiners elected at this time were: W. Stegner and H. E. Linse; L. von Wald and C. Brill; A. Strohmeier and J. Schmitt; A. Knebel and E. J. Hielscher.

Changes in Boundaries

The appointments Brush Creek (called the Windmill), Rice Lake, Minnesota Lake, Silver Lake, Kaibels and Cobb River, were taken from Blue Earth Circuit and constituted Wells Circuit.

Frontenac, Hay Creek, Buchanan and Fairpoint were detached from East Prairie Circuit and formed into Redwing Mission.

St. Cloud, Stengers, Blocks and Bretzkes were separated from Paynesville Circuit and called St. Cloud Mission.

Mannanah was taken from Hutchinson and added to Paynesville Circuit.

West St. Paul was detached from Dakota Circuit and was to be served from St. Paul Station and Mission alternately.

Crow River and Hutchinson Missions were changed into circuits. Thus two new missions and three new circuits were created, making quite an improvement in fields.

F. Emde reported that he had received $25.00, which should be divided among those missionaries who had the greatest deficits in their salaries. It was divided among six ministers.

A form of incorporation for the local societies was adopted.

The conference had obligated itself for quite a sum of money, $3600, which was owing on different churches and parsonages, and had tried to collect the money for it, but with little success. Now it assessed the different fields proportionately with the amount they were to raise. At the next session the report showed that some fields raised their apportionment, others part of it, and several not any of it.

Appointments

During the time the conference was transacting its other business through various committees, the Presiding Elders and the Bishop were engaged solving knotty problems in the stationing of the ministers. At last they had finished their report, not that it was perfect, but it was the best they could do under the circumstances. How often they would like to give a minister a better

field if they had one; and certain charges better preachers if they had them to dispose of. This year the report was as follows:

Winona District—Wm. Stegner, P. E.

Winona, H. Bunse
Oak Ridge, J. Kienholz and supply
Preston, J. G. Drehmel
Blue Earth, A. Strohmeier
Wells, J. von Eschen
Rochester and Kasson, E. J. Hielscher and F. G. Sahr
Waseca, M. Knopf
Le Sueur, A. C. Schmidt
St. Peter, J. L. Stegner
Mankato, Peter Bott
New Ulm, J. G. Simon
Redwood, F. Moede and supply
Jackson, W. Oehler and supply

St. Paul District—L. von Wald, P. E.

St. Paul Station, A. Knebel
St. Paul Mission, C. W. Sydow
Dakota, H. E. Linse
East Prairie, J. H. Schmitt
Redwing, G. Yahn
Carver, E. H. Baumann
Maple Grove, A. Walch
Crow River, G. H. Knebel
Hutchinson, F. Emde
Paynesville, C. Brill
Minneapolis, J. Manthey
St. Cloud, H. Hensel
Sauk Center and Fergus Falls, Wm. Lenz and L. Passer

Worship

On Thursday evening Bishop Escher dispensed the Gospel, on Friday evening E. J. Hielscher, and on Saturday evening A. Strohmeier. On Sunday morning Bishop Escher preached a masterly ordination sermon, during which no eye remained dry and no heart unfed, the secretary says. During the afternoon three ministers were ordained, and then a missionary address given, after which $1500 were secured for the cause of missions. This was extraordinary for those times.

The religious services during a conference session are always of a high order. Some of the best ministers are usually selected to preach. They, in turn, select their best sermons for the occasion. The presence of so many ministers who support the preacher with their prayers and their attention; and of large numbers of the laity who are eager to hear the new men, is an incentive for him to do his best. The cumulative effect of so many strong and trained voices, which join in the singing, is an inspiration to the whole throng. The novelty of seeing so many ministers together adds spice to the services. Many of the people are made happy to meet some favorite minister who had been their pastor in former years; or some preacher who had made a deep impression on them at some time in their lives. These conference services are remembered many years, especially by the laity, and, usually, make lasting impressions for good in the congregation.

1873

Twenty-nine ministers signed the proceedings of this conference. On Monday they started for their various homes, richly blessed, and with new ambitions for the Master's kingdom.

In the Field, 1873-1874

Undoubtedly all the ministers worked hard and faithfully, yet with varied success. Crow River Circuit was the only field from which no conversions were reported. The bulk of the conversions were on Winona District, numbering 337, while on St. Paul District there were only 95. G. Yahn had ten conversions and 19 accessions on Redwing Mission; A. Strohmeier had 11 conversions and 20 accessions on Blue Earth Circuit; E. J. Hielscher secured 13 conversions and 16 new members on Rochester Mission, while H. Hensel gathered in 14 converts and 23 new members on the new St. Cloud Mission. J. Drehmel held revival meetings which netted 17 conversions and 23 accessions, on Preston Circuit, and L. Passer secured 18 regenerations and 16 new members on the frontier Fergus Falls Mission. Brother Passer, full of zeal as he was, pressed westward into Dakota, and took up new appointments. St. Peter Mission, under J. L. Stegner's pastorate, yielded 20 converts and 13 new members; Le Sueur Mission, with A. C. Schmidt as pastor, was blessed with 27 conversions and 29 accessions; likewise New Ulm Circuit, served by J. G. Simon, was strengthened with 27 converts and 30 new members. J. von Eschen, on Wells Circuit, had the privilege of leading 31 souls to Christ and receiving 20 into the church; W. Oehler and F. Sahr saw their labors rewarded on the extensive Jackson Mission by 34 conversions and 86 accessions. Waseca Circuit was visited by gracious revivals which netted 36 converts and 47 new members, which gladdened the heart of the pastor, M. Knopf. G. von Eschen went one better on Kasson Circuit and secured 37 conversions, but only 27 new members. It was the good fortune of Brother Kienholz to head the list with 73 conversions and 67 accessions. The previous year he had 70 conversions on the same field. It was something remarkable to have such extraordinary success during two successive years. This brought Oak Ridge Circuit up to 315 members, the largest by far in the conference. There were two other fields that passed the 200 mark: Blue Earth with 215 members, and Waseca with 202. The total membership of the conference had now reached the number 2790, a net increase of 366 during the year. That was well done.

1874

During the year there were two new churches built on Oak Ridge Circuit, one in Wilson and one at Quincy. Another new church was built at Zion, on Paynesville Circuit. A parsonage was acquired in Rochester.

Conference Session, 1874

The conference assembled in the new church at Quincy, near St. Charles, on Thursday, May 7, 1874. Bishop Escher was present to preside, for the seventh time in succession. In his opening address he emphasized the fact that the ministers should be filled with the Holy Ghost and sanctified through and through, if they wanted to be real useful in the kingdom of God. He exhorted them to exercise brotherly love in the transaction of their business.

H. E. Linse was again appointed secretary. He chose W. Oehler and C. W. Sydow as his assistants.

Every morning, at the opening, a half hour was spent in prayer. During the devotions there were great manifestations of the power of God, and the hearts were melted together in brotherly love.

Promotions

W. Oehler, M. Knopf and F. G. Sahr were voted the order of deacon; and J. Manthey, W. Lenz, J. L. Stegner, P. Bott and A. C. Schmidt were advanced to the order of elder.

Balthaser Simon of St. Paul, Julius Gongoll of Crow River, and Christian F. Sydow of St. Charles were licensed to preach.

George von Eschen, who was one of the first Evangelical ministers to labor in Minnesota, returned during the year from Wisconsin, where he had been preaching, and served Kasson Circuit part of the year. He offered his services to the conference for the future.

F. G. Sahr, who had been stationed with E. J. Hielscher on the Rochester-Kasson field, was transferred in the fall to Jackson Mission. C. R. Koch came from Indiana. Christian Roediger and Conrad Stegner were licensed as local ministers on probation.

Progress

The changes in boundaries this year revealed a progressive spirit.

The appointments Wilson, Mound Prairie, Tabor and Nothnagels were detached from Oak Ridge Circuit and formed into Mound Prairie Mission. This mission has existed ever since.

1874

Camp Release, Pomme de Terre, Bigstone Lake and Hawk Creek were separated from Redwood Mission and constituted Bigstone Lake Mission.

Cottonwood Crossing was taken from New Ulm Circuit and added to Redwood Mission.

The appointments in Rock County and in Dakota Territory were taken from Jackson Mission and together were called Yankton Mission.

This shows that the brethren had been steadily pushing westward and crossed over into the territory of Dakota, so that two fields could be organized at this session, with Dakota names, namely, Yankton and Bigstone Lake.

The greatest change was the formation of *three* districts. Until then there had been only two, with fourteen fields to each, during the last year. What were the controlling reasons for this change is not revealed, but might be surmised. 1. It was expected that the Presiding Elder hold four full quarterly meetings on each field. 2. He did much missionary work, helping the frontier ministers look up and establish new appointments. 3. The means of transportation were quite limited.

The districts were organized as follows:

1. Winona District comprised the fields: Winona, Oak Ridge, Mound Prairie, Preston, Rochester, Kasson, Waseca, Le Sueur, Redwing and East Prairie.

2. St. Paul District: St. Paul Station, St. Paul Mission, Dakota, Minneapolis, Maple Grove, Crow River, Carver, Paynesville, Sauk Center, St. Cloud and Fergus Falls.

3. Mankato District: Blue Earth, Wells, Mankato, St. Peter, Hutchinson, New Ulm, Redwood, Bigstone Lake, Jackson and Yankton.

Andrew Strohmeier was elected as the new Presiding Elder. He continued in this office to the satisfaction of the people for four terms. He was an interesting and a powerful preacher.

Tracts

An offer was made by the Tract Society to supply the conference with good religious tracts. A resolution was passed accepting as many as might be sent; directing the Society to send them in equal portions to the three Presiding Elders, who should dis-

tribute them to the ministers on their respective districts. Through the distribution of religious tracts much good has been done.

An action was taken by the conference which was unusual. Redwood Mission had made up $133.00 more than the claims for salary of its pastor. This excess was turned over by the conference to the pastor of St. Paul Station.

Temperance

The conference supported the temperance cause by suitable resolutions. It recognized and endorsed the Woman's Temperance Crusade of those days. Christian women gathered together, marched to the saloons, entering them, singing temperance songs and praying. They were often ill-treated by the saloon-keepers and their customers. They expressed their sympathy for the cause of temperance and urged the members of the church to pray and work for it and to practice abstinence from strong drink according to the teaching of the Word of God and the Discipline. Thus we see that even in the early days of temperance agitation our conference stood on the right side of the question.

Stationing

Winona District—W. Stegner, P. E.

Winona, Aug. Knebel
Oak Ridge and Mound Prairie, J. Kienholz and Julius Gongoll
Preston, J. G. Drehmel
Kasson, G. von Eschen
Waseca, M. Knopf
Le Sueur, A. C. Schmidt
East Prairie, J. G. Schmitt
Rochester, E. J. Hielscher
Redwing, G. Yahn

St. Paul District—L. von Wald, P. E.

St. Paul Station and St. Paul Mission, H. Bunse and C. R. Koch
Dakota, E. H. Baumann
Crow River and Carver, F. Emde and C. F. Sydow
Paynesville, C. Brill
Minneapolis, J. Manthey
Maple Grove, A. Walch and supply
St. Cloud, H. Hensel
Sauk Center, W. Lenz
Fergus Falls, L. Passer

Mankato District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Blue Earth, H. E. Linse
Wells, J. von Eschen
Hutchinson, P. Bott
New Ulm, J. G. Simon
Mankato, G. H. Knebel
St. Peter, J. L. Stegner
Redwood, C. W. Sydow
Bigstone, F. G. Sahr
Jackson, F. Moede
Yankton, W. Oehler and B. Simon

Thirty-five ministers were sent out into the Lord's harvest field to work.

1874

Sunday Services

There is no record of the week-day services. On Sunday morning the Bishop preached an instructive and powerful ordination sermon, in which he described the call, the qualifications and the duties of an Evangelical minister in a practical and convincing way, during which the presence of the Lord manifested itself and the servants of God experienced a real baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the afternoon three brethren were ordained as deacons and five as elders. Those chiefly concerned in this blessed service never forgot the occasion. Then followed the missionary meeting, in which $1400 were secured for missionary purposes, which was considered well done, remembering that the society had built a new church during the year and paid for it.

In the evening the new Presiding Elder, A. Strohmeier, preached an interesting and efficient sermon.

Thus closed another important session of the conference. On Monday the ministers departed to begin a new year's work for their Master. Not many had to move. H. Bunse of Winona and Aug. Knebel of St. Paul exchanged parsonages and fields.

Among the Laborers, 1874-1875

The new conference year proved successful in soul-winning. A total of 326 converts and 491 new members were reported, bringing the total membership up over the 3000 mark, to 3075.

Blue Earth Circuit had good revivals, under the pastorate of H. E. Linse, resulting in 45 conversions and 42 accessions. Next in order came Waseca Circuit, M. Knopf still serving as pastor, with 33 conversions and 48 accessions. Next came Oak Ridge with 26 regenerations and 29 accessions to reward the labors of J. Kienholz. A. Walch and J. Gongoll reported 25 souls won for Christ and 18 for the church, on Maple Grove Mission. Brother Gongoll had served part of the year on Mound Prairie Mission. Old Paynesville Circuit, under its spiritual pastor, C. Brill, had 22 conversions and 23 new members. Then came St. Cloud, with the energetic H. Hensel as preacher, with 19 souls saved and 15 added to the church, and C. W. Sydow, on Redwood Mission, kept up even with 19 converts, but 31 accessions. God was glorified on Yankton Mission, two young men, Wm. Oehler and B. Simon, being the itinerants, by the conversion of 15 souls and 28 accessions to the church. L. Passer reported 11 souls led to Christ

and 8 received into the church from Fergus Falls Mission. Winona Mission, Mound Prairie Circuit, Kasson Circuit and New Ulm Circuit each had 10 conversions. The remaining fields had less.

There were four churches built: one on Wells Circuit, one in Waseca, another on Le Sueur Circuit, and a fourth on Mound Prairie Mission. There were 33 churches in the whole conference. Local societies were growing, so they could afford to build churches, and, besides, the work demanded it. Private houses and schoolhouses were getting too small to hold the crowds.

The people became accustomed to giving missionary money, raising $3904.05 during the year. The conference collections, for the support of retired ministers and for the widows of ministers, were a mere pittance, only $153.15 being reported from the whole membership. There were 1212 *Christliche Botschafters*, but only 68 *Evangelical Messengers* credited to the conference. If each minister had a *Messenger*, then only about 30 were held by the laity. The conference was still a German conference.

Annual Session, 1875

Back to East Prairie, where they had met thrice before, the brethren came; many of them with horse and buggy, driving long distances. Often the brethren would arrange, by correspondence, to meet on the way, one furnishing the rig, and another riding along for company. Those from a distance arranged an itinerary, stopping over night with a minister or a family of the church, and preaching for the people in the evening. It sometimes required a week, for those who lived farthest away from the place where the conference met, to reach their destination. The roads were poor. Sometimes there was much rain, and the roads became so muddy that it was hard work for the horses to make the required distances in the allotted time.

The conference met in annual session in the East Prairie Church on Friday morning, May 7, 1875, at 8:00 o'clock. To the sorrow of the ministers there was no Bishop present. Following the directions of the Discipline, H. E. Linse, the secretary of the previous session, called the conference to order, and conducted the opening religious exercises. Then the conference elected W. Stegner as chairman. But Brother Stegner, too meek and humble to make use of the honor and power conferred on him, requested Rev. Wm. Yost, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary So-

ciety of the church, who was present, to preside in his stead, the conference acquiescing. Brother Yost took the chair and presided with dignity and tact, and performed about all of the functions of a bishop. He delivered a hearty opening address. Then he appointed H. E. Linse as secretary, who chose W. Oehler and C. W. Sydow as his assistants.

The conference received a letter from Bishop Escher, explaining why no bishop could be present. The wife of Bishop Yaeckel had died, preventing him from coming. Bishop Escher was about to sail for Europe to inspect our work in Germany, and therefore he could not come. The conference passed resolutions, expressing their regret, that both bishops were prevented from coming. They expressed deep sympathy with Bishop Yaeckel in his bereavement, and assured Bishop Escher that they would remember him in their prayers, asking God to protect him on his perilous voyage, to make him a blessing to our work in Germany and to bring him safely back to the homeland. They also remembered Rev. Yost with complimentary resolutions.

In the Ranks

Only two men were licensed to preach: George Britzius from St. Charles, and Julius Fandrey from Blue Earth. The former preached many years in Minnesota, while the latter soon moved to Dakota.

L. Passer, F. Moede and J. Zimmermann were advanced to the order of deacon.

C. W. Sydow and H. Hensel were voted their orders as elder.

B. Simon, J. Gongoll, C. R. Koch, J. Zimmermann and G. von Eschen were received into the itinerancy of the conference. At that time a minister had to preach two years before he could be received into the itinerancy.

Boundaries

A number of changes in the boundaries of the charges seemed advisable and were made as follows:

Middle Branch, Ellenbergs (now Sumner), Links and Rock Dell were taken from Kasson Circuit, and Pleasant Grove and High Forest from Rochester Mission, and together formed Hamilton Circuit. This was the origin of the later Racine Circuit.

Fairpoint, Buchanan and Pine Island were detached from Redwing Mission and added to Kasson Circuit.

1875

Bear Valley was separated from Rochester Mission and joined to Redwing Mission.

The Chippewa appointment of Fergus Falls Mission was added to Sauk Center Mission.

Le Sueur Circuit was transferred from the Winona to the Mankato District, and Hutchinson from the Mankato to the St. Paul District. This was done to have the districts more equal, and on account of locations.

Thus the districts and fields were prepared for the ensuing year.

Presiding Elder Election

The terms of W. Stegner and L. von Wald had expired, so two Presiding Elders were to be elected. Wm. Stegner was re-elected for a third term. He had served St. Paul District four years and also Winona District. C. Brill, of Paynesville Circuit, was newly elected.

W. Stegner was stationed on St. Paul District; A. Strohmeier on Winona District, and C. Brill on Mankato District. Rev. Strohmeier had been only one year on Mankato District.

General Conference

The General Conference was to convene in October of 1875. Twenty-nine recommendations to the General Conference were being voted on by the annual conferences. Of these 23 received the unanimous vote of the conference or nearly so, while 6 were unanimously voted down. W. Stegner, A. Strohmeier and C. Brill were elected delegates to the General Conference and H. E. Linse alternate.

Grasshoppers

For several years countless swarms of grasshoppers infested the south-western part of the state, covering probably ten to fifteen counties. They were so numerous that they obscured the sun when they flew in the air in swarms. They were very voracious. The young when hatched out by the warm spring sun soon made a grain field bare. Later, when they had grown wings, they flew to new fields, and ate up large fields of grain in a few days. They even ate the prairie grass. Various means were devised to destroy them. Some farmers fastened a large net or sack to a hayrake or other vehicle and drove across the fields with it. When these insects flew up, many of them were caught in the

net. The farmers destroyed the captured grasshoppers by fire, hot water, or kerosene. Others sprinkled kerosene on the pests, which put an end to them. Others had a device fixed containing liquid tar, and drove with it over the fields. The grasshoppers would alight in the tar and be finished up. Although millions of them were destroyed in this way, yet it could not be noticed that they diminished. The chickens and birds fed on them and waxed fat. They covered the houses and trees and everything. They would alight on the buggies and wagons as people drove along the highways, and flew into people's faces.

This caused great suffering in the devastated regions. People would sow their seed in the spring but harvest nothing. This continued for four years in some counties. Even the cattle could scarcely find anything to eat. Husbands and sons would leave their homes and go to regions where there were no grasshoppers, to earn some money, in order to keep their families from starving. Most communities in the state, which were spared, contributed food, clothing and money to the stricken people. Even the state supported them.

The ministers of the conference on the fields not stricken urged the people to contribute to the support of their unfortunate brethren. During the past year $1621.25 had been gathered by our members for said purpose. Although this seems to be quite a sum, yet it did not reach far for so many families. The ministers in the stricken districts suffered almost more than the laity. They could not even get food for their horses. The conference gave them an extra appropriation at this session.

On Monday forenoon, when the other business had been nearly completed, the important stationing report was read:

Winona District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Winona Mission, A. Knebel
Mound Prairie, G. Yahn
Oak Ridge, L. von Wald
Preston, J. G. Drehmel
Hamilton, A. Walch
Kasson, G. von Eschen
Waseca, J. Zimmermann and supply
East Prairie, H. Bunse
Rochester, C. W. Sydow
Redwing, M. Knopf

St. Paul District—Wm. Stegner, P. E.

St. Paul Station and St. Paul Mission, E. J. Hielscher and C. R. Koch.
Dakota, E. H. Baumann
Paynesville, J. H. Schmitt
Hutchinson, P. Bott
Crow River, F. Emde
Minneapolis, J. Manthey
Carver, C. F. Sydow, under supervision of F. Emde
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt

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Sauk Center, W. Lenz and G. Britzius
Fergus Falls, J. Gongoll
Maple Grove, H. Hensel and J. Fandrey

Mankato District—C. Brill, P. E.

Blue Earth, H. E. Linse
Wells, J. von Eschen
New Ulm, G. Simon
Le Sueur, J. Kienholz
Mankato, G. H. Knebel
St. Peter, J. L. Stegner
Redwood, L. Passer
Bigstone Lake, F. G. Sahr
Jackson, F. Moede
Yankton, Wm. Oehler and B. Simon

Including the Presiding Elders and the new beginners, nineteen out of thirty-eight ministers had to move. On the whole the stationing was well done, even if the bishop was absent.

Worship

C. W. Sydow preached on Friday evening; H. Bunse on Saturday evening. On Sunday forenoon Wm. Yost preached the ordination sermon, whereupon three brethren were ordained as deacons. In the afternoon Brother Yost delivered a missionary sermon, after which $1800.00 were secured for the cause of missions. C. Brill, the new Presiding Elder, preached on Sunday evening, and then two brethren were ordained as elders. To close with, the Lord's Supper was celebrated. All these services were richly blessed of the Lord.

On Monday noon the conference closed. In the afternoon the brethren started for their homes. With new courage they went their way rejoicing, some more than others. Some to get some more experience in packing household goods, moving, and settling down again; to take new lessons in patience, when the window shades were too narrow, the carpet too short, or the stovepipes would not fit. Undoubtedly some dishes were broken and some furniture damaged. The wife had a headache and the children cried for want of proper food and sleep. The minister whistled or sang a few songs to keep a pleasant face. Some of the members came around, ostensibly to greet the new minister and offer their help, but, in reality, to size him and his family up, to see how they would like them, and to have something new to tell their neighbors. After getting a black thumb nail, and staving in the new hat a few times, the ordinary job of moving was completed, and the minister, in a good mood and well rested, was ready to preach the first sermon for the expectant throngs. God seems to appreciate the minister's self-sacrifice and patience and usually helps him out wonderfully in preaching his initiatory ser-

mon, even if he could not put much study on it. Moving is all over with again, and soon almost forgotten in the press of work.

Sowing and Reaping

Each district had a new Presiding Elder. Of course Wm. Stegner was known all over the conference, and the others were known on many of the fields. Yet the people were anxious to see and hear their new presiding elders. In those days the people went quite a distance to the quarterly meetings. They came together from the various appointments for the quarterly conference on Saturday forenoon and remained for Sunday. Large gatherings and attentive, Spirit-filled listeners were an inspiration to the elder, and he preached powerful sermons.

As a rule each Presiding Elder conducted a few camp meetings on various fields of his district. He invited five or six ministers to be present and take part. Often a bishop would be present. They began on Wednesday or Thursday evening and lasted until Monday evening as a rule. Sunday was usually the great day for big crowds. People from the whole surrounding country flocked in to see what they could see or hear. Often a bunch of rowdies came to disturb the meeting. They usually were under the influence of liquor.

A camp meeting was being held in Adam Utzinger's grove, at Middle Branch. About 20 tents formed a circle about the camp. All went well during the first days. On Sunday large crowds were present. Bishop Escher preached a powerful sermon in the forenoon, which lasted two hours. In the afternoon he preached again. After the sermon an invitation was given for seekers to come to the altar, which was filled with a goodly number of penitents. At that time the men and women were kept strictly separate during the services. While the altar work was going on, a desperate character crowded in among the women and threw himself to the ground, screaming and hollering, mocking the seekers. One of the county sheriff's deputies was present, and asked one of the church officers, if he should take the fellow in charge. Consent was given, but when the officer wanted to take the man he showed fight. The officer called a man to help him, when a pal of the rowdy sprang up, and for ten or fifteen minutes there was a terrible fist fight going on among the trees. After they had battered each other up and torn their clothes, the officer got the best of it, and the other two men fled. They jumped into a buggy

and escaped. On the way home the man, who created the disturbance, wanted to shoot a dog, which barked at them, and shot off his own thumb. Vengeance soon overtook him.

At another camp meeting, on the same ground, during the time one of the ministers was preaching, on Sunday evening, the preachers' stand was bombarded with rotten eggs. At least several dozen must have been thrown. Some landed on the roof of the stand, while others struck some of the people. Such dastardly deeds usually disturbed the meeting for the time being.

At Zion, the surrounding Catholics came in force on Sunday evening, usually well filled up with liquor. Sometimes they brought kegs of beer with them and drank it in the outskirts of the camp. During the altar service, they crowded up so close as to disturb the exercises, often pushing each other upon the people of the church.

The year 1875-1876 was the most successful in conversions up to this time. A total of 519 conversions and 610 accessions of new members was reported. This increased the membership to 3399, net gain of 324. There were so many fields, which had an extraordinary number of conversions, that it is difficult to decide which should be mentioned first. E. H. Baumann must have had great revivals on *Dakota* Circuit, for he reported 61 conversions and 47 accessions, bringing the membership up to 178.

F. G. Sahr gained 54 converts and 40 new members on the new Bigstone Lake field. St. Paul Station had its first great awakening, resulting in 53 conversions and 45 new members, father Hielscher, pastor. That was a great help for our work in St. Paul. C. W. Sydow had 27 conversions and 29 accessions on Rochester Mission. Oak Ridge Circuit, L. von Wald, pastor, was strengthened by 25 converts and 29 new members, increasing the membership to 246. J. Kienholz had 24 conversions on Le Sueur Circuit; L. Passer 22 on Redwood Mission; John Schmitt 21 on Paynesville Circuit; G. Simon 18 on New Ulm Circuit; A. Walch 15 on Hamilton Circuit; H. E. Linse 15 on Blue Earth Circuit; J. L. Stegner 15 on St. Peter Mission; P. Bott 15 on Hutchinson Circuit; W. Oehler 14 on Yankton Mission; J. G. Drehmel 12 on Preston Circuit; H. Bunse 12 on East Prairie Circuit; G. Knebel 11 on Mankato Mission; J. Manthey 10 on Minneapolis Mission; W. Lenz 10 on Sauk Center Mission. The rest of the fields ranged from one to seven. How the angels in heaven must have rejoiced over the many sinners that repented!

1876

Ninth Conference Session, 1876

For the second time the conference had been invited to hold its annual session in Emanuel's Church, four miles east of Blue Earth. H. E. Linse was the host and assigned the ministers their places of entertainment. He gave them all excellent quarters, and each family received first-class guests.

The session began on Friday morning, May 5, 1876. Bishop Escher was present again and opened with appropriate religious exercises, and a fitting address. All the ministers were present excepting W. Lenz, who was absent on account of family circumstances. The chairman appointed E. J. Hielscher as secretary, who chose for his assistants W. Oehler and C. W. Sydow.

License and Orders

Herman Ohs of Rock County, F. C. Schmidt of St. Charles, Hermann Klatt of Montrose, Karl Priebe of Nicollet, W. C. Stegner of East Prairie, F. Wolter of Meriden, George Siebold of Kasson, and Ernst F. Movius of Bigstone, were licensed as ministers on probation. Of these Klatt, Priebe and Wolter never entered the active ranks. Stegner and Movius preached only a few years in the Minnesota Conference. It was an unusual occurrence to license eight applicants for the ministry at a conference session.

J. Gongoll, B. Simon, C. F. Sydow and C. R. Koch were voted their orders as deacons.

M. Knopf, W. Oehler and F. G. Sahr were advanced to the order of elder.

J. Fandrey, C. F. Sydow, G. Britzius and Wm. C. Stegner were received into the itinerancy.

Fixing the Fields

Some changes in the boundaries were necessary.

Koberstein's appointment (later called Kenyon) was detached from East Prairie and united with Kasson Circuit, and this circuit was to be served by two ministers.

The appointments Henske, Altnow, Rathke, Rosenow and Klemmer were taken from Hutchinson Circuit and formed into a mission called New Auburn Mission.

The appointments in and surrounding Alexandria were taken from Sauk Center Mission and, together with Morris, from Bigstone Lake Mission, constituted Alexandria Mission.

1876

Rath's appointment was transferred from Wells Circuit to Mankato Mission.

Lake Benton and Hawk Creek were transferred from Bigstone Lake to Redwood Mission.

Ebenezer in Rock County, Larchwood in Iowa, New Canton, Schmitts, Schnases, Centerville and Buhs were taken from Yankton Mission and constituted the Luverne Mission.

Kasson, Oak Ridge, Fergus Falls, Jackson and Redwood charges were to be served by two men.

Carver Mission was named Chaska Mission.

New Auburn Mission was transferred from St. Paul to Mankato District.

Now the fields were ready for the Stationing Committee. It will be seen that often appointments were named after a prominent man of the society.

Presiding Elder Election

Wm. Stegner, after having served one year of his third term, resigned as Presiding Elder. As a reason he gave family circumstances. He was the father of a number of children, and, undoubtedly, believed he ought to be at home more than he could be on the district, to help train his children. In his place H. E. Linse was elected and stationed on St. Paul District.

Centennial Celebrations

This was the 100th year of the existence of the United States of America, and great celebrations were planned throughout all the land. Our conference desired to show its loyalty to our country, and appointed a committee to formulate resolutions on the subject. The committee consisted of G. H. Knebel, J. von Eschen, W. Oehler, C. W. Sydow and A. Walch. They made the following report, which was adopted:

"We, as citizens of this blessed Republic of the United States of America, feel that we owe hearty thanks to God, who directs the destinies of rulers and nations, for the privileges, which we, as a church, enjoy in this country.

"Whereas we celebrate the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence of our nation this year, therefore resolved,

"1. That we, as ministers and members of the Evangelical Association, join in this celebration, both in civil and religious exercises. In our religious celebrations addresses shall be given

on such themes as, The Founding and Continuance of the United States, and, The Blessings Which Our Church Enjoys in This Country. These celebrations shall take place in the month of July.

"2. That in all our societies an offering be taken, in conformity with the directions of the General Conference, at the time of these celebrations.

"3. That the money thus raised be applied to the support of poor students, who prepare for the ministry.

"4. The conference shall determine how this money shall be appropriated."

This action of the conference proves that our conference was loyal to our country and its government.

Conference Debts

For a number of years the conference felt embarrassed because of a few thousand dollars of debts, caused by the building of churches on missions. It had apportioned the debt among the fields, but only a small part of it was liquidated. It then enjoined upon the Presiding Elders the collecting of the debt, but this failed entirely. At this session it was decided to appoint a solicitor, who should spend his whole time during the first six months of the conference year, in calling on every congregation for this purpose. Bro. E. H. Baumann was appointed as solicitor. He had comparatively good success, for he reported at the next conference session that he had secured $2618.25 in cash and $579.50 in pledges, which covered the total indebtedness, when all paid in. As a rule, Evangelical people aim to pay their debts as soon as they can.

New Churches

During the year a church was bought at St. Charles,* under the pastorate of L. von Wald, and one was built on Yankton Mission, under supervision of W. Oehler.

Finances

The conference adopted a new scale of salaries, which was nearly the same as before, excepting that an allowance of $15.00 was made for each child under fifteen years of age in the family of a minister. If a charge happened to get a minister with many children, it had to pay more salary than when it had one with no

*St. Charles Church was bought from the Congregationalists.

children. A man was not paid according to the work he did, but according to the size of his family. This rule did not prevail many years.

The conference risked it to appropriate $4000.00 missionary money for the ensuing year, which was quite a large sum for those times.

Assignment of Preachers

The other business having been practically completed, the Bishop read the appointments as follows:

Winona District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Winona, W. Oehler
Mound Prairie, E. H. Baumann
Preston, Aug. Knebel
Hamilton, A. Walch
Oak Ridge, L. von Wald and supply
Rochester, C. W. Sydow
Kasson, G. von Eschen and F. C. Schmidt
East Prairie, H. Bunse
Redwing, M. Knopf
Waseca, J. Zimmermann and supply

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

Dakota, J. Manthey
St. Paul Station, E. J. Hielscher
St. Paul Mission, J. Gongoll
Minneapolis, W. Stegner
Maple Grove, C. R. Koch
Chaska, F. Emde
Crow River, W. Lenz
Hutchinson, Peter Bott
Paynesville, J. H. Schmitt
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt
Sauk Center, G. Britzius
Alexandria, W. C. Stegner
Fergus Falls, C. F. Sydow

Mankato District—C. Brill, P. E.

Blue Earth, J. G. Drehmel
Wells, J. L. Stegner
Le Sueur, J. Kienholz
New Ulm, J. von Eschen
St. Peter, J. G. Simon
New Auburn, J. Fandrey
Mankato, G. H. Knebel
Jackson, F. Moede and G. H. Siebold
Redwood, L. Passer and E. F. Movius
Bigstone Lake, F. G. Sahr
Luverne, B. Simon and H. Ohs
Yankton, H. Hensel

Counting all, 22 ministers had to move.

Religious Services

A conference session is not all business. The spiritual requirements are also provided for.

Bishop Escher preached on Sunday forenoon at 9:30, and after the sermon ordained four men as deacons. In the afternoon he ordained three ministers as elders. After that W. Stegner conducted a blessed Communion Service. In the evening A. Strohmeier preached a missionary sermon, and a goodly sum of missionary money was secured. On Monday evening the Bishop

preached once more. At the close of this service the brethren formed a circle in the church and bade each other an affectionate farewell and wished God's blessing.

Thus another milestone in the history of the conference was passed, and on Tuesday the brethren hastened toward their homes, to begin the work of another year. Many may have gone with trembling hearts, but with faith in God. One might imagine how, for instance, one must have felt, who had to move from Maple Grove to Yankton.

"Work, for the Night is Coming"

The year 1876-1877 was another very successful one. Only two fields remained without conversions. The greatest number, namely, 52, were reported by B. Simon and H. Ohs from Luverne Mission. They held a number of revival meetings. But there were only 12 new members received. Dakota Circuit, with J. Manthey as pastor, had great revival fires, resulting in 49 souls accepting Christ, and 38 joining the church. On Kasson Circuit G. von Eschen and F. C. Schmidt stirred up the dry bones and secured 38 converts and 39 new members. Brother J. Gongoll captured 38 souls from the enemy and won 45 for the church on Fergus Falls Mission. C. W. Sydow made things lively on Rochester Mission and induced 27 to accept Christ and 34 to join the church. Joseph Zimmermann preached the Gospel so effectively on Waseca Circuit that 30 souls accepted Christ, and were saved, and joined the Evangelical Association. L. von Wald again had success on Oak Ridge Circuit, securing 20 conversions and 22 accessions. This field had 241 conversions in six years. H. Hensel had 18 converts on the outpost of Yankton, and J. Kienholz the same number on Le Sueur Circuit. F. Moede on Jackson Mission, J. L. Stegner on Wells Circuit, and A. Walch on Hamilton Circuit, each secured 17 conversions. On three fields, Bigstone with F. G. Sahr as pastor, Mankato with G. H. Knebel as minister, and Minneapolis, the indefatigable Wm. Stegner the preacher, 14 converts were secured on each. St. Paul Station experienced somewhat of an awakening, resulting in 12 conversions and 21 accessions. C. R. Koch had 10 conversions on Maple Grove Mission. In all there were 467 conversions and 531 accessions. The total membership now amounted to 3609, a net gain of 390 during the year.

It must be remembered that on some fields it was comparatively easy to gain new converts, while on others the soil was

barren. In the larger cities it was more difficult to win people for Christ than in some country districts.

This was the banner year, thus far, in the building of new churches; there being ten reported. Since there were no special reports of the building of churches or parsonages, and the boundaries were often changed, it is difficult to determine from the statistical reports which societies did build them.

On Hamilton Circuit, Rochester Mission, St. Paul Station, Dakota Circuit, Fergus Falls Mission, New Ulm Circuit, Mankato Mission, New Auburn Mission each, a new church was erected, while Kasson Circuit built two.

Three new parsonages were built, one on Mound Prairie Mission, one in St. Cloud, and the third one I could not locate.

Building

As a rule, the building of a church or parsonage causes much extra work, and sometimes a lot of unpleasantness for the pastor. First he must persuade the people of the need of a new church. That often takes a long time. If it is a new church society, he must take steps to have it incorporated properly. The selection of the location for the church often causes much friction and delays the project. At a certain place the building of the church was delayed about five years, because the members could not agree on the site. Occasionally some members withdraw from the church, because the majority decided against them in the choice of the site.

Usually the next step is to secure pledges for the undertaking. At this the pastor experiences many thrills: some suprise him by willingly subscribing the amounts he asks, or even more, but others are as stubborn as a mule and as close as an oyster. He even has to suffer abuse from some of the miserly members. Probably the next thing will be to have a building committee elected. Sometimes poor judgment is exercised, and men are put on who understand nothing about building churches, and who have little business tact, but who want to have everything to say. Other committees do splendidly. Now the plan, one that suits everybody! How to harmonize all the good suggestions is a task! How some good souls resist all new innovations! The minister is patient, and at last a plan is agreed upon. But now the specifications must be

made. Here again there are differences of opinion. So much thinking and watching is necessary while this is being done. Shall the building be done by contract, or by day labor? Mostly by contract, nowadays, but many years ago it was usually done by men hired by the day. Both methods have their advantages and disadvantages. If given by contract, the minister, as a rule, has to see to it that the specifications are carried out faithfully. But here comes the rub. Something has been left out, or something must be changed. This gives the contractor a chance to be arbitrary, and there is trouble on hand. In former years the pastor often did much of the manual labor himself. In some cases he did most of the carpenter work; in others he did the painting; sometimes he hauled the rock for the foundation, and the lumber; often he did the grading; making himself useful in many ways. Seldom did he get extra pay for his extra work. Then came the day of dedication, for which he had to make considerable preparation. All the bills had to be settled. A financial report must be given. The ministers and friends, who come from a distance must be entertained. The dedication is a thing of the past. But not all is well. Some minister says: "If I had built it, I would have planned it differently. The platform is too high. The pulpit is too clumsy. The windows are too narrow, or too dark," etc.

But there is a bright side, too. Often the members stand faithfully by their pastor, and highly appreciate his work. Then he feels well repaid if many souls are saved in the new sanctuary. Besides he knows that God will not forget his sacrifices.

Tenth Conference Session, 1877

On Friday morning, May 4, 1877, the members of the conference met in Zion's Church, near the little place of New Trier, Dakota County, for their tenth annual session. A new bishop, Reuben Yeakel, was present, to preside. It was the only time he presided at the Minnesota Conference. He opened the session with the usual spiritual devotional exercises. Then he delivered the opening address, in which he dwelt especially on the need of sincere, earnest prayer, if a blessed session was wanted.

Rev. J. Manthey was the host of the conference.

The Bishop appointed E. H. Baumann as secretary, who chose Wm. Oehler, H. Ohs and G. W. Hielscher as his assistants.

Rev. W. F. Schneider, the agent of our Publishing House, was present for the first time. He was a very successful official and was well liked.

H. Hensel, of Yankton Mission, could not be present, on account of an accident, in which he was injured. He was remembered with resolutions of sympathy.

Changes Among the Workers

J. von Eschen, who had preached 13 years, was located upon his own request.

G. W. Hielscher, William Passer and William Fritz were voted licenses as preachers on probation.

L. Passer, J. Zimmermann and F. Moede were voted their orders as elders.

George W. Hielscher, E. Movius, H. Ohs and F. C. Schmidt were received into the itinerancy.

Arranging of the Fields

Redwood Mission was divided, the appointments south of Redwood constituting the Lamberton Mission, and the remainder was called Beaver Falls Mission.

The appointments in Minnehaha and Turner Counties, Dakota Territory, were detached from the Luverne and Yankton Missions, and called Centerville Mission.

Cobb River was taken from Mankato Mission and added to Wells Circuit.

Shelbyville was detached from Blue Earth Circuit and added to Jackson Mission.

Spring Valley was added to Hamilton Circuit.

Hessings was transferred from Rochester Mission to St. Charles Circuit.

West St. Paul and Hastings were added to Dakota Circuit, and supplied with two ministers.

New Auburn Mission was transferred from Mankato to St. Paul District.

The name of Fergus Falls Mission was changed to Elizabeth Mission.

1877

Stationing

On Monday forenoon the Bishop assigned the ministers their fields for the year as follows:

Winona District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Waseca, J. Zimmermann and G. Britzius
East Prairie, H. Bunse
Kasson, A. Walch
Oak Ridge, L. von Wald and W. Fritz
Hamilton, G. von Eschen
Preston, A. Knebel
Mound Prairie, E. H. Baumann
Winona, W. Oehler
Rochester, C. W. Sydow
Redwing, M. Knopf

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul Station and Mission, E. J. Hielscher
Dakota Circuit, J. Manthey and J. Fandrey
Paynesville, J. H. Schmitt
Hutchinson, G. H. Knebel
Crow River, Wm. Lenz
Minneapolis, W. Stegner
Chaska, G. W. Hielscher
Maple Grove, C. R. Koch
Sauk Center, P. Bott
Alexandria, to be supplied
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt
Elizabeth, J. Gongoll and W. Passer
New Auburn, F. C. Schmidt

Mankato District—C. Brill, P. E.

Blue Earth, J. G. Drehmel
Wells, J. L. Stegner
Le Sueur, J. Kienholz
New Ulm, F. Moede
Mankato, F. G. Sahr
St. Peter, J. G. Simon
Jackson, B. Simon
Luverne, L. Passer
Centerville, H. Ohs
Yankton, H. Hensel
Beaver Falls, F. Emde
Lamberton, E. Movius
Bigstone Lake, W. C. Stegner

Sixteen ministers had to move, most of them young men. Work was given to 42 men.

Religious Services

On Thursday evening, W. F. Schneider, the Publisher, dispensed the Gospel; on Friday evening Bishop Yeakel preached, and on Saturday evening A. S. Heilman, of the Illinois Conference. As usual, Sunday was the great day of the session. The Bishop, being new in Minnesota, excited the expectations of ministers and laity. He preached a great ordination sermon in the forenoon. In the afternoon he ordained three brethren as elders. Then followed a missionary service, in which $2000 was secured for the cause of missions. In the evening C. Brill preached in his characteristic way, and then the Lord's Supper was celebrated. The conference session lasted all day Monday, and Bishop Yeakel

gave them another sermon in the closing service in the evening. These religious services were a great spiritual feast for the ministers and the people on Dakota Circuit.

During the Interim, 1877-1878

To find the greatest result in conversions, we must go to Dakota Territory. H. Ohs reported 54 converts, 32 new accessions and 28 received with certificate on Centerville Mission. On Oak Ridge Circuit the revival fires burned briskly, for 45 were saved and 40 joined the church, under the labor of L. von Wald and W. Fritz.

In various meetings on St. Cloud Mission, Aug. Schmidt secured 46 conversions and 48 accessions. That was well done for a comparatively new field.

E. Baumann was rewarded with 25 conversions and 23 accessions on Mound Prairie Mission, while J. Manthey and J. Fandrey secured 30 converts and 47 new members on Dakota Circuit, where the last conference session had been held. H. Bunse had a spiritual awakening on East Prairie Circuit, netting 21 converts and 12 new members. Then followed J. H. Schmidt on Paynesville Circuit with 12 conversions; J. L. Stegner on Wells Circuit with 11; G. Simon on St. Peter Mission with 10; B. Simon on Jackson Mission with 10; L. Passer on Luverne Mission with 23; and H. Hensel on Yankton Mission with 10.

The total number of converts in the conference were 472, new members 586, making the total membership 3801.

Two new churches were reported, one of which was built under the supervision of H. Hensel, in the capital of Dakota, Yankton. He collected extensively in Dakota and Minnesota for this project. Presumably the other church was built on New Auburn Mission.

The outstanding fact in the work during these years was, that the brethren diligently extended their missionary propaganda further and further into Dakota, taking up new appointments and organizing new classes.

ELEVENTH CONFERENCE SESSION, 1878

The brethren journeyed to what used to be called Blooming Grove, near Morristown, for their annual meet. After the various preliminary meetings, that of the Examining Board, the Mis-

sionary Society and the Sunday-school and Tract Union, the conference proper met on Friday morning, 1878. Again a new bishop was present to preside. It was Rudolph Dubs, who had been elected at the last General Conference at Allentown, Pa. He was a man with great talents, a commanding personality, and was a powerful speaker. He became influential in the church. For a number of years before his elevation to the episcopacy he was editor of the *Christliche Botschafter*.

The junior preachers, who were examined by him, at this session, never forgot him. He asked them difficult questions out of the Bible, orally, but hardly gave them time to think, when he would pass the question on to the next. He soon had them so bewildered that they could hardly answer any of them. Then he made reflecting remarks about them. Finally one of the young men mustered the courage to ask him: "Brother Bishop, are the young men in other conferences as ignorant, too, as we are?" This seemed to have the effect of tuning down his severity a little.

He opened the session with devotional exercises, and then delivered his opening address, in which he said that all selfishness and self-seeking should be absent in the transaction of the conference business, and that all should continue earnestly in prayer.

Then he appointed W. Oehler as secretary, who chose C. W. Sydow and H. Ohs as his assistants.

The Laborers

C. R. Koch, who had labored in the conference four years, asked for his credentials, which were given him. He went to the South Indiana Conference, where he labored a few years, and died in 1881 of small-pox.

G. H. Knebel, who was licensed to preach in 1867, was a charter member of this conference, and had preached successfully for ten years, had been deposed from the ministry and expelled from the church during the year for immoral conduct. F. R. Plantikow finished the year on Hutchinson charge.

Martin Gagstetter, Frank R. Plantikow and George Haller were licensed as preachers on probation.

George Spaeth was received into the conference in the same relation which he sustained in the Illinois Conference. Conrad Oertli, of the Wisconsin Conference, was received into this conference.

1878

H. Ohs, G. Britzius, W. C. Stegner, F. C. Schmidt, G. W. Hielscher and E. F. Movius were voted their orders as deacons.

B. Simon, J. Gongoll and C. R. Koch were advanced to the order of elder.

F. R. Plantikow was received into the itinerancy.

The Fields

There were not so many changes made in the bounadries as usual.

The large Jackson Mission was divided. From it were detached Shelbyville, Willow Creek, Elm Creek, Finke's, Fairmont, Koenig's and St. James to form the Martin County Mission.

Nicollet was transferred from New Ulm Circuit to St. Peter Mission.

Rich Prairie, Two Rivers, River Schoolhouse and Swan Lake were taken from St. Cloud Mission, and, together with the appointments of Sauk Center Mission, which were situated north of the Sauk River, constituted Two Rivers Mission.

The remaining appointments of Sauk Center Mission were added to Alexandria Mission. This was the end of the Sauk Centre Mission.

Deutsche Warte

G. H. Knobel, a minister of the Illinois Conference, presented to the conference the interests of a new German weekly paper, called the *Deutsche Warte*, which was launched for the purpose of giving to the German reading public a paper which would give the news of the day, and yet maintain a Christian attitude. All the German secular papers of that day maintained an anti-Christian attitude, opposing and ridiculing the efforts of the true Church of Christ. The conference promised by resolution to support said publication and to recommend it to its members. Some of the ministers and members subscribed for it and kept it for years. Later it changed its principles and was merged with some other paper. An anti-Christian paper should not be found in a Christian home. Thereby parents endanger the moral life of their children, besides giving financial aid to an enemy of Christ.

Conference Treasury

At this time there were no superannuated ministers, and but one widow to support, therefore the conference appropriated money from this treasury for bishops' salary and for certain con-

tingencies. Yet they had a balance of $1267.88 left in the treasury in 1878. It is always better to have a balance than a deficit in any church treasury.

During the year the members had raised $6283.01 for missionary purposes, nearly $2000 in excess of the previous year. Of this sum $821.55 went to the general treasury to help liquidate its debt.

The conference appropriated $4995 missionary money toward the salary of its missionaries and for rent, for the ensuing year.

Mutual Aid Society

Since the ministers received only a meager salary, from which they could not lay aside much for the future, they were solicitous about what would become of their families in case of the death of the supporter of the home. At this session a mutual aid society was organized among the ministers. Each member pledged to pay ten dollars to the heirs of any minister belonging to the society upon his death. There was nothing to pay until some one died. Thirty-nine ministers joined this society. For two years it got along fine. But the first death in the spring of 1880 broke it up. The members each paid the widow the $10.00 and then disbanded.

Elections

C. Brill was elected as delegate to the Board of Missions. A. Strohmeier had finished his first term as Presiding Elder, and given such good satisfaction, that he was re-elected for a second term.

Worship

There was a preaching service each evening, but there is no record of most of them. On Saturday evening Rev. Wm. Huelster, agent for North-Western College at Naperville, Illinois, preached. On Sunday morning Bishop Dubs preached an unctuous ordination sermon on 2 Corinthians 5: 19 and 20, after which a number of young ministers were ordained. This was a blessed service. In the afternoon many people partook of holy communion. Then followed the missionary service, in which $2857.50 was raised for this sacred cause. In the evening the Bishop gave an interesting lecture on: "The Work of the Evangelical Association in Germany."

1878

Stationing

On Sunday evening, after the services, the bishop read the appointments to the expectant throng. They were:

Winona District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Winona, W. Oehler
Mound Prairie, E. H. Baumann
Oak Ridge, J. Zimmermann and supply
Preston, Aug. Knebel
Rochester, C. Oertli
Hamilton, G. von Eschen
Kasson, A. Walch
East Prairie, C. W. Sydow
Redwing, W. Fritz
Waseca, G. Yahn and M. Gagstetter

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul Pine Street and St. Paul Mission, H. Bunse
Dakota, J. Manthey and G. Haller
Minneapolis, W. Stegner
Maple Grove, M. Knopf
Crow River, W. Lenz
Chaska, G. W. Hielscher
New Auburn, F. C. Schmidt
Hutchinson, J. Kienholz
Paynesville, P. Bott
St. Cloud and Two Rivers, J. Gongoll and W. C. Stegner
Alexandria, E. F. Movius
Elizabeth, A. C. Schmidt

Mankato District—C. Brill, P. E.

Mankato, F. G. Sahr
St. Peter, J. G. Simon
Le Sueur, H. Hensel
Blue Earth, L. von Wald
Martin County, G. Spaeth, under supervision of L. von Wald
Wells, J. L. Stegner
New Ulm, F. Moede
Lamberton, J. G. Drehmel and F. R. Plantikow
Beaver Falls, F. Emde
Bigstone Lake, G. Britzius
Jackson, B. Simon
Luverne, L. Passer
Centreville, H. Ohs
Yankton, E. J. Hielscher and supply

In all 22 ministers received new fields. E. J. Hielscher was moved from the capital of Minnesota to the capital of Dakota. The fields, in general, were well supplied.

On Monday noon the session closed, and the ministers hastened to their various homes, to tell their expectant families the good news of where they would live and work during the following year. Some were glad to hear that they could remain another year. Some wives, when they were informed that they had to move, and possibly quite a distance, broke down and wept. Some did not expect to move, and the news came like lightning from a clear sky. There was the hard work of tearing up, traveling, perhaps, a long distance, per buggy, through mud and rain, and then settling down again. The children had to be taken out of their classes in school; the old associates and friends had to be left behind, to go among strangers. No wonder there were tears

shed! But, with about all of them, the feeling of remonstrance soon wore off, and with Christian fortitude they braved the difficulties, and soon felt at home again among the good Evangelical people of their new field. All the faithful wives of Evangelical ministers deserve great rewards for their hard labor, and many sacrifices.

Busy at Work, 1878-1879

During the year Winona District had 73 conversions and 117 accessions; St. Paul District 108 and 148; Mankato District 142 and 312. In the whole conference there were 323 conversions and 577 new members. The total membership had gone up to 3978. Four pastors did not have the privilege of leading any souls to Christ.

W. Lenz had an awakening on Crow River Circuit, which resulted in 27 souls saved and won for the church. E. J. Hielscher found pleasure in leading 27 souls to Christ and receiving 29 into church fellowship.

L. von Wald had 25 conversions and 30 accessions on old Blue Earth Circuit. The brethren Yahn and Gagstetter secured 21 converts and 23 accessions on Waseca Circuit. G. Simon came to the conference with a report of 19 conversions and 12 accessions. G. W. Hielscher had revival fires burning on Chaska Mission, which netted 19 souls purified in the blood of the Lamb and 13 brought into church fellowship. From Dakota Circuit came the glad news that 17 souls had accepted Christ, J. Manthey and G. Haller being the pastors. L. Passer was given 14 souls for his hire and 20 accessions on Luverne Mission. Wells Circuit, under the pastorate of J. L. Stegner, yielded 13 converts and 20 new members. Up on Elizabeth Mission, A. C. Schmidt secured 13 converts and 32 new members. J. Zimmerman had 12 regenerations and 12 accessions on Oak Ridge Circuit. On East Prairie Circuit the Lord gave C. W. Sydow 11 converts and 11 new members.

There was an increase of four churches during the year. One of these was built in Chaska under the supervision of G. W. Hielscher. Another was erected on Waseca Circuit, under the supervision of G. Yahn. The third was built on Bigstone Lake charge, where G. Britzius was the pastor. Another was erected on St. Peter Mission, where G. Simon supervised the job.

Conference Session, 1879

Back to the same church where they had met five years before, came the host of Evangelical ministers for their twelfth annual session. They met on Friday morning in the Quincy Church, under the chairmanship of Bishop Escher. It was on May 2, 1879. The bishop opened the session with devotional exercises and an earnest episcopal address, in which he emphasized the need of moral purity and mutual confidence.

W. Oehler was again appointed as secretary, and chose H. Ohs for his assistant.

Early in the session the report on boundaries was given. Far-reaching changes were made. First the fields were fixed up for another year and then the conference territory was divided into four districts.

Camp Release and Koeths were transferred from Bigstone Mission to Beaver Falls Mission, and the latter was named Renville Mission.

All the appointments situated south, west and north of Marshall were detached from Lamberton Mission and called Marshall Mission.

The appointments in Hutchinson and Bon Homme Counties, Dakota, were taken from Centerville Mission and called Scotland Mission. Centerville Mission was called Sioux Falls Mission.

West St. Paul was transferred from Dakota Circuit to St. Paul Station.

The appointments west of Clinton along the Northern Pacific Railway were taken from Elizabeth Mission and called Fargo Mission.

Oak Ridge Circuit was divided. Quincy, Dover, and Hartfields were to constitute Dover Circuit, and the remaining appointments were called St. Charles Circuit. Thus the old familiar name of Oak Ridge was dropped for good from the list of appointments. It will be noticed that most of the changes were made in Dakota or western Minnesota.

The arrangement of the fields into districts will be found in the report of the stationing.

How About the Workers?

A. Walch, who had preached 10 years, retired. He moved on a farm near Odessa.

W. Fritz, F. R. Plantikow, W. Passer and M. Redman were voted their orders as deacons.

1879

M. Gagstetter, J. G. Haller, G. Spaeth and W. Fritz were received into the itinerancy.

To the regret of the conference there were no applicants for license to the ministry. It had not so happened for years.

The first term of C. Brill as Presiding Elder having expired, and a fourth district having been created, it became necessary to elect two Presiding Elders. Brother Brill was elected for a second term, and Wm. Stegner was again elected, after having served as pastor of the Minneapolis church for three years. This was the fourth time Brother Stegner was elected to this office.

Poor Fund

Already in connection with the Iowa Conference the Minnesota work had a share in what was called the "Poor Fund." This money was lent poor congregations to help them build churches. It never reached a high sum, being $645 at this session. Often it was difficult to collect the money which had been loaned. It had caused more or less trouble. It was resolved to donate this money to various needy societies, according to their wants. This put an end to the Poor Fund.

Mutual Fire Insurance Company

At the previous session a committee was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws for a Mutual Fire Insurance Company. The committee were H. E. Linse, W. Stegner and C. Brill. The committee prepared said documents, and presented them to the conference. The conference deferred this matter until the other business had been transacted. On Monday, May 5, 1875, such a company was organized. It adopted a constitution and by-laws. Its first officers were: H. Bunse, President; C. Brill, Secretary, and W. Stegner, Treasurer. The directors were: H. E. Linse, A. Strohmeier, F. Emde, E. J. Hielscher and A. Knebel.

All the pastors in charge were made agents of the company, and soon began to insure churches and parsonages and the personal property of the ministers.

Appointments

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul Station, H. Bunse
St. Paul, Upper City, to supply
Dakota, F. Emde
Redwing, Wm. Fritz
East Prairie, C. W. Sydow
Faribault, to supply
Dover and St. Charles, J. Zimmermann
Rochester, C. Oertli
Winona, J. Manthey
Mound Prairie, J. L. Stegner

1879

Minneapolis District—C. Brill, P. E.

Minneapolis, J. G. Haller
Chaska, F. Moede
Hutchinson, J. Kienholz
Maple Grove, M. Knopf
Crow River, P. Bott
St. Cloud, J. Gongoll
Paynesville, W. Lenz
Alexandria, E. F. Movius
Two Rivers, W. C. Stegner
Elizabeth, A. C. Schmidt
Fargo, G. W. Hielscher

St. Peter District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Kasson, E. H. Baumann
Waseca, G. Simon and M. Gagstetter
Le Sueur, H. Hensel
St. Peter, W. Oehler
Mankato, F. G. Sahr
New Auburn, F. C. Schmidt
New Ulm, B. Simon
Lamberton, J. G. Drehmel
Marshall, F. R. Plantikow
Renville, J. H. Schmitt
Bigstone, G. Britzius

South District—W. Stegner, P. E.

Preston, G. Yahn
Hamilton, G. von Eschen
Wells, A. Knebel
Blue Earth, L. von Wald
Martin County, G. Spaeth
Jackson, Wm. Passer
Sioux Falls, to supply
Scotland, H. Ohs
Yankton, E. J. Hielscher
Luverne, L. Passer

Religious Services

Peter Massueger, of the Wisconsin Conference, and a brother-in-law of Rev. G. von Eschen, preached on Friday evening. Bishop Escher preached on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the bishop preached a powerful ordination sermon to a large audience, and then performed the rites of ordination on a few brethren. In the afternoon he conducted the communion services and then led the missionary meeting, at which $1900 were secured for the cause of missions. In the evening W. F. Schneider preached a good sermon. These were seasons of refreshing before the face of the Lord. They can never be forgotten by any sincere persons who shared in them.

W. Stegner, A. Strohmeier and C. Brill were elected delegates to the coming General Conference. H. E. Linse was elected alternate.

Thus ended another annual meet of the conference, and the brethren hastened home, trusting the Lord, to begin a new year in their high calling.

In the Field, 1879-1880

The Presiding Elders held their quarterly and their camp meetings, and the pastors preached on Sunday and sometimes on week days, and conducted their revival meetings with varied success.

It pleased the Lord to give them a total of 441 converts and 791 new members, bringing the total membership up to 4214. This shows a healthy growth.

Beginning with Kasson Circuit, we find that the Lord gave E. H. Baumann 44 conversions and 31 accessions. This field heads the list in conversions.

Next came Paynesville, where W. Lenz labored, with 37 converts and 44 new members. This meant much for the future of this circuit.

H. Ohs reported 36 regenerations and 69 accessions for Scotland Mission in Dakota. The energetic B. Simon harvested 28 souls for Christ and the church on New Ulm Circuit. Lamberton Circuit was blessed with 25 conversions and 28 accessions, J. G. Drehmel being the pastor. J. Zimmermann was rewarded with 31 conversions and 15 accessions on Dover and St. Charles Circuits. Wm. Fritz secured 21 converts and 24 new members on Redwing Mission. F. Emde was permitted to lead 16 souls to Christ and give the hand of church fellowship to 12. The pastor on Sioux Falls Mission, G. Duebendorf, had the pleasure to lead 15 souls to Christ, and to receive 29 into the church during the first year in the ministry. His neighbor on Yankton Mission, E. J. Hielscher, had about the same success, 15 conversions and 28 accessions. L. von Wald could never be satisfied without converts during a conference year. He secured 14 on Blue Earth Circuit and received 19 into the church. G. Britzius gained 11 souls for Christ and 55 for the church on Bigstone Mission. G. Simon and Gagstetter won 11 souls for Christ and received 29 into the church on Waseca Circuit. Crow River Circuit was blessed with 10 conversions and 19 accessions, under the labors of P. Bott. Likewise St. Peter Mission yielded 10 converts and 15 new members, under the supervision of W. Oehler. G. Spaeth held revival meetings on Martin County Mission, which netted 10 converts and 17 new members. All the other pastors had more or less success on their fields in winning souls for the Kingdom.

During the year three new churches were built and two parsonages. One of the churches was built in Faribault, under the supervision of C. W. Sydow. A church was bought in Redwing, where W. Fritz was pastor. The Courtland church was erected under the direction of B. Simon.

Thirteenth Annual Conference Session, 1880

This time the conference met in the home church of the writer, then called Salem's Church of Hamilton Circuit, now Racine Circuit, on Friday morning, May 7, 1880. For a long time the members of the church had looked forward to this great event. It often formed the topic of conversation at meal time or in the leisure hours of the evening. The housewives and young maidens were busy preparing the homes for the honored guests. The men hurried their farm work along, so they might have the conference week free, so they could attend the conference sessions.

But before the glad event arrived something happened, which cast a deep gloom over the whole community. Their beloved pastor, who was just finishing his pastorate there, (it being his third year,) took sick and died a few weeks before the time set for the conference. Brother George von Eschen was laid to rest in the Evangelical cemetery, near Racine. He was a good minister.

The Presiding Elder, W. Stegner, then took matters in hand and assigned the ministers to their places of entertainment. Some of the ministers came per buggy, but most of them by train to some station, where the farmers went, not with automobiles, but with buggies or wagons, to convey them to their homes.

I got the impression then that the ministers know a fine country when they see it, for they were lavish in their praises of the country about Racine, Minn.

A New Bishop

It was Bishop Thomas Bowman's first visit to Minnesota, but not his last. He was then in the forties. His fine physique and pleasant face made a favorable impression on everybody at first glance. He presided with grace and dignity. The opening exercises were very spiritual and uplifting. His address to the conference was full of practical truths and helpful to the ministers.

He appointed H. Bunse as secretary, who chose H. Ohs and C. W. Sydow for his assistants.

Among the Ranks

August Huelster, who was the second Evangelical minister in Minnesota, returned from the Wisconsin and joined our conference after an absence of about 20 years.

George Husser, Gottlieb Duebendorf and William Blanchard were licensed as preachers on probation.

C. F. Sydow, Peter Mumm and Andrew Berreth were turned over to the Presiding Elders for appointment.

August Huelster, G. Husser and Wm. Blanchard were received into the itinerancy.

G. Spaeth, J. G. Haller and M. Gagstetter were voted their orders as deacons.

G. W. Hielscher, G. Britzius, F. C. Schmidt, E. F. Movius and H. Ohs were advanced to the order of elder. All of these were ordained on Sunday afternoon, which was, indeed, a solemn occasion. Many tears flowed, and the young ministers were very much affected.

J. Zimmermann, who was a successful minister, and in the active service of our conference for five years, located at this session on account of impaired health. He later moved to Dakota and preached in that conference for some years.

H. E. Linse's term as Presiding Elder having expired, an election became necessary. H. Bunse was elected for the office for the first time.

W. Stegner was elected as delegate to the Board of Missions.

The conference passed suitable resolutions concerning the death of Brother G. von Eschen.

Salary

The salary of the ministers ranged from $175.00 for probationers to $575.00 for Presiding Elders. Nearly all of them came to this session with a deficit. Some fell short nearly $200.00. That made it hard for some with large families.

Boundaries

Many changes were made this year.

Dover and St. Charles Circuits were united and called St. Charles Circuit. Oak Ridge appointment was transferred to Mound Prairie Circuit.

The appointments of the Fargo Mission, north of Glyndon, were formed into a new field, called Red River Mission.

The appoinmtnes Wild Rice (now Great Bend) and Flegels and the surrounding country were constituted the Breckenridge Mission.

Wegners, Morristown, Blooming Grove and Deerfield were transferred from Waseca Circuit to Faribault Mission.

The city of Le Sueur was taken up as an appointment and added to Le Sueur Circuit.

1880

St. Paul Mission was united with St. Paul Station. Part of Jackson Mission was added to Martin County Mission, which was called Fairmont Mission. The remainder of Jackson Mission was added to Luverne Mission.

The appointments in McCook, Lake, Moody and Davidson Counties, Dakota, were constituted a Madison Mission.

The appointments Busewitz and Rose Hill were added to Lamberton Mission.

Chaska Mission was transferred from Minneapolis to St. Paul District.

Mankato was taken from St. Peter and added to the Southern District, which was now named Mankato District.

Thus the fields were prepared for the Stationing Committee to appoint workers on them.

Appointments

The bishop read the appointments some time on Sunday. The people on Hamilton Circuit were all eager to find out who their new pastor would be. When the bishop read: "Hamilton Circuit," he paused a while to heighten the suspense, then he read slowly: "L. Passer."

St. Paul District—H. Bunse, P. E.

St. Paul Station, Aug. Huelster
Dakota, F. Emde
Redwing, Wm. Fritz
East Prairie and Faribault, H. E. Linse and G. Husser
St. Charles, F. Moede
Rochester, C. Oertli
Winona, J. Manthey
Mound Prairie, G. Yahn
Chaska, W. C. Stegner

Minneapolis District—C. Brill, P. E.

Minneapolis, J. G. Haller
Hutchinson, G. Britzius
Maple Grove, M. Knopf
Crow River, P. Bott
St. Cloud, F. C. Schmidt
Paynesville, W. Lenz
Alexandria, J. Gongoll
Two Rivers, Peter Mumm
Elizabeth, J. Kienholz
Breckenridge, G. W. Hielscher
Red River, A. C. Schmidt

St. Peter District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Kasson, E. H. Baumann
Waseca, G. Simon
Le Sueur, M. Gagstetter
St. Peter, W. Oehler
New Auburn, C. F. Sydow
New Ulm, B. Simon
Lamberton, J. G. Drehmel
Marshall, F. R. Plantikow
Renville, J. H. Schmitt
Bigstone, C. W. Sydow and W. Blanchard

Mankato District—W. Stegner, P. E.

Mankato, H. Ohs
Wells, A. Knebel
Blue Earth, L. von Wald
Hamilton, L. Passer
Preston, J. L. Stegner
Fairmont, H. Hensel
Luverne, Wm. Passer
Sioux Falls, G. Spaeth
Madison, G. Duebendorf
Scotland, F. G. Sahr
Yankton, E. J. Hielscher

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

1880

Worship

There were services each evening during the week, but I do not remember who preached, excepting those mentioned in the records. A. Huelster preached on Friday evening on the text: Psalm 122: 6. Wm. Yost, Junior Publisher, preached on Saturday evening. The people enjoyed his sermon. On Sunday morning Bishop Bowman preached an unctuous ordination sermon. It was a rare treat for the ministers and the laity. Then Rev. Yost led the missionary meeting, at which $1600.00 were pledged for the holy cause of missions. In the evening the bishop dispensed the Word of God once more. There were showers of blessing during the whole day.

On Monday morning a memorial service was held in honor of Brother von Eschen, deceased, which was very impressive.

The remaining business was soon finished, and before noon, on Monday, 47 ministers hastened toward their homes to begin the work of the new conference year.

Sowing and Reaping, 1880-1881

Some pastors had to do much sowing, while others found the field ready for the sickle. A total of 324 conversions and 633 accessions were reported for the year. The membership reached 4436. God called home 44 members by death. 1595 copies of the *Botschafter* and 108 *Messengers* found their way into the bounds of the conference, which showed what language prevailed.

Blue Earth headed the list in point of conversions, counting 35, and 31 accessions. Brother von Wald held meetings there nearly all winter.

Paynesville Circuit, W. Lenz, pastor, followed with 29 converts and 34 new members. Next in order was Fargo, where E. F. Movius shepherded the flock, with 26 regenerations and 36 new members. A. Knebel succeeded in winning 25 souls for Christ and 22 for the church on Wells Circuit. E. H. Baumann secured 21 converts and 20 new members on Kasson Circuit. On Hamilton Circuit, L. Passer rejoiced over 20 souls won for Christ and 14 for the church.

Brother Huelster reported 15 conversions and 28 accessions from St. Paul Station. C. Oertli, on Rochester Mission, had the pleasure of leading 14 souls to Christ and receiving 12 into the church. On Crow River Circuit there was still good fishing, for

1880

Brother Bott caught 14 souls for Christ and 18 for the church. G. Simon's heart rejoiced over the saving of 13 precious souls on Waseca Circuit, and winning 17 for the church. In Winona, J. Manthey had 10 conversions and 18 accessions. On Bigstone Mission, C. W. Sydow and W. Blanchard secured 10 converts and 48 new members. Other pastors had fewer conversions, but may have had success in other lines.

Ten new churches were built during the year. From the statistics it appears that one each was built on St. Cloud, Scotland, Crow River, Faribault, and Wells charges, and two each on Renville and Bigstone fields. Somewhere one new parsonage was erected. It will be seen that a number of pastors were occupied by building projects.

At Conference, 1881

The conference met on Friday morning, May 6, 1881, in the Tabor Church, near Castle Rock. This was the third time the conference met on this circuit, but each time in a different church. Bishop Dubs was present to preside. The opening exercises were as usual.

He appointed H. E. Linse as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher and J. G. Haller as his assistants.

The Watchmen on Zion's Walls

W. Passer was compelled to retire on account of impaired health, caused by a light sunstroke. He was in the active service four years. He moved on a farm at Luverne.

W. Blanchard and J. G. Haller, Jr., were also reported to be in poor health, but took an appointment again.

F. W. Tesch, of Crow River, Robert Johnsen of Blue Earth, Philip Laux, J. George Haller, Sr., and Peter Mumm were voted licenses as preachers on probation.

G. Husser was voted his order as deacon. F. R. Plantikow, W. Fritz and W. C. Stegner were advanced to the order of elder.

G. Duebendorf, C. F. Sydow and P. Mumm were received into the itinerancy.

P. Laux, F. W. Tesch, J. G. Haller, Sr., R. Johnsen and H. Isker were referred to the Presiding Elders for appointment.

A. Strohmeier was elected as representative to the Board of Missions.

1881

A New Finance Plan

Undoubtedly there had been some complaints as to the method of making missionary appropriations, therefore a new plan was devised and adopted.

A committee of five ministers, serving regular charges, were to be appointed as an appropriation committee. This committee was to get information from each missionary, as to the amount of salary his mission could raise for the coming year, and report to the conference before reading of the appointments. After the stationing this committee was to make the appropriations for the missionaries, pro rata, according to the conference schedule. Five per cent of the total missionary receipts were left unappropriated, so that in case of special deficiencies, at the next session, after-appropriations could be made. This plan gave satisfaction for a while, but later changes became necessary.

How Shall the Fields Be Arranged?

The three English, and one German, appointments on Ridge Prairie of Two Rivers Mission were added to St. Cloud Mission, and Two Rivers Mission was discontinued.

Brainerd, which had been served from St. Cloud, and Wadena, which had been supplied from Alexandria, were to constitute a new field, called Brainerd and Wadena Mission.

The appointments Zimmermanns, Westphal, Tower City, Palm, Valley City, Jamestown, Degreifs, and Sanborn were detached from Fargo Mission and constituted Valley City Mission.

Crookston, Grand Forks and Menges of the Red River Mission and Hebron of Fargo Mission, together with the surrounding country, were formed into a Crookston-Grand Forks Mission.

Barnesville and the city of Fergus Falls were ordered taken up as apointments on Elizabeth Mission.

The appointments south of the Minnesota River, of Chaska Mission, were added to Dakota Circuit.

The remainder of Chaska Mission was to be served in conjunction with Maple Grove Mission.

The appointments Koester, Koeps, Guenther, Lups, Schulz and Ports were transferred from Bigstone to Marshall Mission. Bigstone Mission was advanced to a circuit.

Concord was transferred from Yankton to Sioux Falls Mission.

1881

The name of Sioux Falls Mission was changed to Canton.

Cobb River was transferred from Wells Circuit to Mankato Mission.

The appointments of Maple Grove, situated north of the Mississippi River, together with Duluth, were constituted a Duluth Mission.

Duluth Mission was transferred from Minneapolis to St. Paul District.

Chaska Mission was placed from St. Paul on Minneapolis District.

The growth of the work in Dakota necessitated many changes in boundaries.

Appointments

St. Paul District—H. Bunse, P. E.

St. Paul, A. Huelster
St. Paul Mission, J. G. Haller, Jr.
East Prairie, H. E. Linse
St. Charles, F. Moede
Mound Prairie, G. Yahn
Winona, J. Manthey
Dakota, F. Emde
Faribault, L. von Wald
Rochester, M. Knopf
Redwing, to supply
Duluth, G. Husser

Minneapolis District—C. Brill, P. E.

Alexandria, J. Gongoll
Brainerd and Wadena, R. Johnsen
Breckenridge, P. Mumm
Crow River, W. Fritz
Elizabeth, C. Oertli
Fargo, E. F. Movius
Hutchinson, G. Britzius
Pembina, Grand Forks and Crookston, A. C. Schmidt and F. W. Tesch
Minneapolis, E. J. Hielscher
Maple Grove and Chaska, to supply
Paynesville, W. Lenz
St. Cloud, F. C. Schmidt
Valley City, J. Kienholz

St. Peter District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Waseca, G. Simon
Kasson, E. H. Baumann
Le Sueur, M. Gagstetter
New Ulm, B. Simon
St. Peter, W. Oehler
New Auburn, C. F. Sydow
Renville, J. H. Schmitt
Bigstone, C. W. Sydow
Lamberton, H. Isker
Marshall, F. R. Plantikow and Ph. Laux

Mankato District—W. Stegner, P. E.

Preston, J. L. Stegner
Hamilton, L. Passer
Wells, J. G. Drehmel
Blue Earth, A. Knebel
Mankato, H. Ohs
Fairmont, H. Hensel
Lu Verne, W. C. Stegner
Madison, G. Duebendorf
Canton, G. Spaeth
Scotland, F. G. Sahr
Yankton, G. W. Hielscher

1881

During the year Redwing was supplied by L. S. Koch and Maple Grove and Chaska by J. G. Haller, Sr. Sixteen fields received new ministers.

For the Spiritual Life

The people had the privilege of hearing Bishop Dubs preach on Friday evening, and E. J. Hielscher on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the Bishop preached a great ordination sermon. In the afernoon he ordained those who had been voted their ordination, and then conducted the missionary services. In the evening M. Lauer, the Senior Publisher, gave them another good sermon. The heavens were open above the devout worshipers all day.

On Monday the business was finished, and the brethren took leave of one another.

Out Into the Field—1881-1882

This was an especially successful year in soul-winning. There was a total of 614 conversions and 960 new members, bringing the number of members up to 4818, a net gain of 382.

Bigstone Mission, C. W. Sydow, pastor, led the procession with 50 conversions and 93 accessions. That was a rich harvest of souls and greatly strengthened the work in that region.

Next came Brother Lenz, from Paynesville Circuit, with 48 converts and the same number of new members. Up on Elizabeth Mission things were livened up, for Brother Oertli was privileged to lead 40 souls to Christ and received 19 into church fellowship. J. G. Drehmel led the hosts on Wells Circuit into battle and captured 38 souls for King Emanuel, and 33 for the church. His neighbor, A. Knebel, on Blue Earth Circuit, secured 36 souls for Christ and 51 for the church. On East Prairie Circuit, H. E. Linse finished up the year with 29 converts and 25 accessions. At Waseca Circuit the Lord gave G. Simon 25 souls for his hire, and 37 to the church. Revivals held on Lamberton Mission by H. Isker netted 23 conversions and 25 accessions. Out on the frontier, on Valley City Mission, the Lord was gracious, and gave Brother Kienholz 24 converts and 31 new members. On Fargo Mission the Lord gave Brother Movius great victory, resulting in 33 brought into the Kingdom and 35 into the church. G. Britzius on Hutchinson Circuit brought 20 sheaves into the heav-

enly garner and 22 into the church. F. G. Sahr, on Scotland Mission, was partly rewarded for his labors by 20 new-born souls and 18 accessions. F. Emde on Dakota Circuit, and W. Fritz on Crow River Circuit, each had 17 conversions and 23 accessions. L. von Wald secured 16 converts and 31 new members on Faribault Mission. J. L. Stegner on Preston Circuit saw 15 souls press into the Kingdom and 5 join the church. H. Ohs held revival meetings on Mankato Mission, which yielded 14 conversions and 17 accessions. G. Spaeth reported 12 converts and new members from Canton Mission. G. Duebendorf brought 10 lost souls to Christ and received 20 into the church on Madison Mission. P. Mumm was gladdened by seeing 13 souls saved and 16 join the church. A. C. Schmidt at the most northern point of the conference, on Pembina Mission, won 10 souls for his Master and 13 for the church. All but three had some conversions on their fields. There was much rejoicing by the angels, over sinners repenting. The report of one minister's victories stirred up the others to greater exertions, greater expectations and more faith. Victory is often contagious. What meetings those must have been! What shouts of praise ascended to heaven as one soul after another prayed through! Those scenes are never forgotten by those who witnessed them.

There were six new churches and two parsonages built during the year. One church was built in Blue Earth City, A. Knebel, pastor; one at Centerville, Dak., G. Spaeth, pastor; one at Fargo, E. F. Movius, pastor; another at Pembina, A. C. Schmidt, pastor, and one at Hammond. The parsonages were erected at Fargo, E. F. Movius, pastor, and on Luverne Mission, W. C. Stegner, pastor.

The missionary money received amounted to $7031.80. That was good for those times.

Conference, 1882

With glad hearts the ministers "marched to Zion" for the 15th annual session of the conference. This Zion is near Paynesville, as all the older men will know. They met on Friday morning, May 5, 1882. Their old friend, Bishop Escher, was there, and presided. After the devotional exercises he gave them a splendid opening address. It may be interesting to let the now sainted bishop speak some of those words over again to us, who read this book. He said, in part: "1. God, thou seest me; 2. we must be

truthful, and the motives of our actions must be right and good, as far as we understand. 3. We should always remember, who we are, that *God* hath sent us, and that we should never forfeit our dignity, as ambassadors of our divine Master, and to stand up accordingly, where the duty of our office demands it, but with meekness and humility." He referred to Bishop Seybert as an example. He exhorted them to maintain social purity and not to be taken up with worldly things or with business affairs any farther than was absolutely necessary.

The chairman then appointed H. Ohs as secretary, who chose for his assistants C. W. Sydow, E. F. Movius and J. G. Haller, Jr.

Among the Workmen

J. von Eschen and M. Wunderlich returned their preacher's licenses.

H. E. Linse remained in the itinerancy one year without appointment.

J. G. Haller, Jr., requested his credentials, that he might join the Michigan Conference.

P. Bott also asked for his credentials. He went west, to the Pacific Coast.

F. C. Schmidt could not be present on account of illness, and L. Passer on account of sickness in his family.

Leonhart S. Koch, Gustave J. Schmidt, of St. Charles, A. Berreth, Ferdinand Yenny and John Richards were licensed as preachers on probation.

G. Duebendorf and P. Mumm were voted their orders as deacons.

J. G. Haller, Jr., G. Spaeth, M. Gagstetter and C. F. Sydow were advanced to the order of elder.

H. Isker, F. W. Tesch, L. S. Koch, G. J. Schmidt, Ph. Laux, A. Berreth, F. C. Yenny and R. Johnsen were received into the itinerancy.

A. Strohmeier's term as Presiding Elder had expired, and he was elected for another term.

Arranging the Fields

Kasson Circuit was transferred from St. Peter to St. Paul District.

The appointments Milbank and Muellers of Bigstone Circuit, and Ports, Lups, Godwin and Watertown of Marshall Mission, were together constituted a Milbank Circuit.

1882

Camp Release was taken from Marshall Mission and added to Renville Mission.

Redfield and vicinity, Aberdeen and Huron were constituted an Aberdeen Mission.

Steinkes was transferred from Madison to Marshall Mission.

Larchwood was detached from Canton and added to Luverne Mission.

Oak Ridge and Holmes were taken from Mound Prairie and added to St. Charles Circuit.

The name of the Duluth Mission was changed to Rush City.

The appointments Blanchards, Pagels and Casselton, of Fargo Mission, and Zimmermann, Tower City and Westphals were formed into Casselton Circuit.

Fargo and Moorhead constituted Fargo Mission.

Valley City Mission was called Jamestown Mission.

The Grandforks and Crookston Mission was divided; the apointments in Minnesota were formed into the Crookston Mission, and those in Dakota into the Grand Forks Mission.

Mandan and Bismark and surrounding country were constituted a Mandan Mission.

In pursuance with a request from the Canada Conference, a Manitoba Mission was established.

Maple Grove and Chaska Missions were united into a Maple Grove Circuit.

It will be seen by this report, how fast the work spread in Dakota. This rapid increase was caused, in great part, by the many Evangelical families moving from Minnesota, and other states, into Dakota, where land was cheap at that time. Also many German Russians had settled there, and readily accepted the Gospel preached by our ministers, and joined our church.

At this juncture the chairman of the conference notified the body, that there were not enough men to supply the fields. Hereupon the brethren bowed in prayer and earnestly petitioned God to call and send more workers into the harvest field. How often promising openings fail on account of a lack of ministers! Whose fault is it? Too many do not obey the call of God to the ministry.

Examinations

In the minutes of this session, for the first time, the proceedings of the Examining Board are given. There is a record of the classes, and of the standing of each student. In 1879 the standing

of the various students was given for the first time, and then no more until 1882. The examiners graded by marking from 1 to 5. 3 was passing mark; 4 was good, and 5 was perfect. The marks given ranged from 2 to 4½. Bishop Escher examined in Theology at this session. At this time a written examination was required.

Theological Quarterly

Ex-Bishop R. Yeakel had launched a theological magazine, issued quarterly, in the German language. He sent a communication to the conference soliciting its support. A suitable resolution was passed endorsing the undertaking and pledging it support. Rev. Yeakel was editor of it for some years, but later it passed into other hands, outside of our denomination. There was some valuable reading in it.

Where the Ministers Went

St. Paul District—H. Bunse. P. E.

St. Paul Station, A. Huelster
St. Paul Mission, E. H. Baumann
Mound Prairie, G. Husser
Dakota, W. Lenz
East Prairie, J. Manthey
Faribault, G. Spaeth
Kasson and Redwing, F. Moede and supply
Rochester, M. Knopf
St. Charles, G. Yahn
Winona, G. Simon
Rush City, to supply

Minneapolis District—C. Brill, P. E.

Minneapolis, E. J. Hielscher
Maple Grove, to supply
Crow River, W. Fritz
Hutchinson, C. F. Sydow
Paynesville, H. Ohs
St. Cloud, F. C. Schmidt
Alexandria, J. Gongoll
Elizabeth, C. Oertli
Fargo, L. S. Koch
Casselton, E. F. Movius
Jamestown, J. Kienholz
Mandan and Bismark, to supply
Breckenridge, P. Mumm and supply
Wadena, R. Johnsen
Grand Forks, F. W. Tesch
Crookston, G. J. Schmidt
Pembina and Manitoba, A. C. Schmidt and supply

St. Peter District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Waseca, W. Oehler
Le Sueur, M. Gagstetter
New Auburn, G. Britzius
Renville, B. Simon
Bigstone, C. W. Sydow
Aberdeen, F. Yenny
Milbank and Marshall, L. von Wald and Ph. Laux
Lamberton, H. Isker
St. Peter, J. H. Schmitt
New Ulm, F. Emde

Mankato District—W. Stegner, P. E.

Preston, J. L. Stegner
Hamilton, L. Passer
Wells, J. G. Drehmel
Blue Earth, A. Knebel
Mankato, F. R. Plantikow
Fairmont, H. Hensel
Luverne, W. C. Stegner
Madison, G. Duebendorf
Scotland, F. G. Sahr and supply
Yankton and Canton, G. W. Hielscher and A. Berreth

H. Loewen helped out on Scotland Mission part of the year.

1882

Worship

On Friday evening Wm. Yost preached to the edification of the people; on Saturday evening W. Oehler, and on Monday evening C. W. Sydow.

On Sunday morning Bishop Escher preached an unctuous ordination sermon to a large concourse of people, after which he ordained two brethren as deacons. In the afternoon he ordained four men as elders. W. Yost led the missionary meeting, at which $2100 were received. In the evening Wm. Stegner preached, and then the Lord's Supper was celebrated. How the hearts were melted together! The Holy Spirit had the right of way.

In the name of God the brethren left Zion to begin the work of another year, 23 of them on fields new to them.

Out for a Harvest—1882-1883

In the number of conversions, the banner went to F. G. Sahr, he having led 68 souls to Christ and received 49 into the church on Scotland Mission. Next in line was Paynesville Circuit with 33 conversions and 35 accessions. H. Ohs was pastor there in his first year. J. Manthey secured 31 converts and 37 new members on East Prairie Circuit, proving that it was still living. The Lord gave J. G. Drehmel 26 converts and 39 new members on Wells Circuit. J. L. Stegner rejoiced with 24 newly saved souls and received them into church fellowship. Waseca, W. Oehler, pastor, was revived, having 21 conversions and 25 accessions. Brother Movius was rewarded by 20 conversions and 26 accessions on Casselton charge. W. Fritz's revivals on Crow River Circuit resulted in 14 conversions and 17 accessions. L. von Wald, as usual, had good revivals, yielding 14 converts and 18 new members on Milbank Circuit. C. W. Sydow, on Bigstone Circuit, brought 12 souls to Christ and received 33 into the church. L. S. Koch had 13 conversions on Fargo Mission, A. C. Schmidt 12 on Pembina Mission, G. Spaeth 12 on Faribault Mission, A. Huelster 12 on St. Paul Station, W. Lenz 11 on Dakota Circuit, F. C. Schmidt 10 on St. Cloud Mission, J. H. Schmitt 10 on St. Peter Mission, and A. Knebel 10 on Blue Earth Circuit.

In all there were 446 conversions and 833 new members received. The membership totaled 5140, a net gain of 323 during the year.

There were three new churches erected, so that the total number of churches was 72.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Important Session—1883

The conference met on Friday, May 4, 1883, in Emanuel's Church, at what was called Yellowbank, then Bigstone Circuit. It now belongs to Odessa Circuit. Bishop Bowman was the chairman and opened the session with impressive religious services. In his opening address, he emphasized brotherly love, self-examination, faithfulness and success.

H. Ohs was again appointed secretary, and chose G. Spaeth and L. S. Koch as his assistants.

Revising the Ministerial Lists

Peter Mumm was not present, for the Lord had called him to a higher place during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed. He had preached only two years and some months.

C. Roettger, local minister, had withdrawn from the church, and C. Priebe and J. G. Haller, Sr., also in a local relation, had moved out of the bounds of the conference.

R. Johnsen and W. C. Stegner were permitted to take a local relation.

M. Knopf, who had preached 12 years, remained one year in the itinerancy without appointment, but practically retired, for two years later he moved to sunny California.

F. F. Meyer, of the Indiana Conference, was received into this conference on his credentials.

H. Loewen, from Dakota, W. Walter of Maple Grove, William Suckow, George Siebold, Julius Fandrey and R. W. Teichmann were licensed.

H. Isker, F. W. Tesch, Ph. Laux, G. J. Schmidt and L. S. Koch were voted their orders as deacons.

G. Husser was advanced to the order of elder. F. F. Meyer and W. Blanchard were received into the itinerancy.

The terms of W. Stegner and C. Brill, as Presiding Elders, had expired, so an election was necessary. The conference was divided into five districts, therefore three men had to be elected as Presiding Elders. H. E. Linse, Aug. Huelster and Aug. Knebel were elected. The brethren Stegner and Brill entered the pastorate again.

As delegates to the coming General Conference were elected: H. E. Linse, H. Bunse, A. Strohmeier and A. Huelster. As alternates, A. Knebel and J. Manthey.

H. E. Linse was elected to the Board of Missions for Minnesota and A. Huelster for Dakota.

1883

Conference Division

The work in Dakota had grown to such proportions, that many ministers in the conference thought it was time for a Dakota Conference to be organized. This question had been agitated during the year, and now came to a head. The question was whether the division should be made at that time (1883) or deferred one year. The opinions differed. Even the bishops differed. Bishop Escher wrote a letter to the conference, advising to defer the division, and let the coming General Conference act on the matter. After much discussion it was decided to remain as one conference another year, but to take preliminary steps for the division a year later. Accordingly five districts were formed, three in Minnesota and two in Dakota. The ministers were allowed to choose, as much as was compatible with the welfare of the work, whether they would travel in Minnesota or Dakota.

The fields were arranged accordingly.

Boundaries

West St. Paul, the Sixth Ward of St. Paul (now called Winifred Street) and Chaska were constituted a West St. Paul Circuit.

Rush City Mission was united with Maple Grove Circuit.

Redwing Mission was to be served from Kasson.

Western was taken from Breckenridge and added to Elizabeth Mission.

Hebron was transferred from Grand Forks Mission to Casselton Circuit.

Elkton and Kensington were taken from Pembina Mission and added to Grand Forks.

Vogts, Hettlers, Nagels, Bittners, Heidners and Erdmanns, from Scotland Mission, were formed into a Yorktown Mission.

Yellowbank, Fairfield and Muellers of Bigstone Circuit were formed into a new field, called Odessa Circuit.

Bigstone, Ortonville, Muellers and Thieles were called Bigstone Mission.

Watertown and Goodwin were detached from Milbank Circuit and added to Marshall Mission.

Camp Release of Renville was added to Marshall Mission.

Henry Station was added to Aberdeen Mission.

New Auburn was called Arlington Mission.

The division into districts will be noticed in the list of appointments.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

1883

The Bishop Read the Appointments

St. Paul District—H. Bunse, P. E.

St. Paul Station, C. Brill
West St. Paul, G. Duebendorf
St. Paul Mission, E. H. Baumann
Dakota, W. Lenz
East Prairie, J. Manthey
Faribault, G. Spaeth
Kasson, F. Moede
Rochester, J. L. Stegner
St. Charles, G. Yahn
Hamilton, J. Gongoll
Preston, C. W. Sydow
Winona, G. Simon
Mound Prairie, G. Husser

Minneapolis District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Minneapolis, W. Stegner
Maple Grove, L. Passer
Crow River, A. C. Schmidt
Hutchinson, C. F. Sydow
Arlington, G. Britzius
Le Sueur, H. Isker
Paynesville, H. Ohs
St. Cloud, G. J. Schmidt
Alexandria, W. Walter
Elizabeth, F. C. Schmidt
Wadena, J. Kienholz

Mankato District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

Mankato, F. R. Plantikow
St. Peter, J. H. Schmitt
Waseca, W. Oehler
Wells, J. G. Drehmel
Blue Earth, H. Hensel
New Ulm, F. Emde
Renville, B. Simon
Odessa, E. J. Hielscher
Lamberton, M. Gagstetter
Fairmont, G. H. Siebold
Luverne, W. Passer

Yankton District—Aug. Knebel, P. E.

Yankton, F. G. Sahr
Canton, A. Berreth, under supervision of G. W. Hielscher
Scotland, G. W. Hielscher
Madison, F. F. Meyer
Yorktown, H. Loewen, under supervision of G. W. Hielscher
Marshall, J. Fandrey
Aberdeen, S. Hoy and F. Yenny
Milbank, L. von Wald
Bigstone, Ph. Laux

Fargo District—A. Huelster, P. E.

Fargo, L. S. Koch
Breckenridge, C. Oertli and supply
Casselton, W. Fritz
Jamestown, W. Suckow
Bismarck and Mandan, F. W. Tesch
Grand Forks, W. Blanchard
Crookston, R. W. Teichmann
Pembina, E. F. Movius
Manitoba, to be supplied

This was the last time that the brethren from Minnesota and Dakota met together in conference session. St. Paul Station was chosen as the place for the next session of the Minnesota Conference, and Bigstone for the first meeting of the Dakota Conference. Two sets of examiners were provided, and other necessary officers elected for both bodies. The Minnesota Conference had reached a climax at that time, the next year the statistics showed a large decrease. Just before the division (1883) the Minnesota Conference had 5140 members, 52 itinerant

ministers, 72 churches, 28 parsonages; read 1733 *Christliche Botschafters,* 135 *Evangelical Messengers,* 891 *Evangelische Magazins;* had 125 Sunday-schools, with 4164 scholars, 90 catechetical classes with 1079 catechumens; and raised $7403.15 missionary money. It voted $1000.00 out of its conference treasury for the Dakota brethren.

Worship

On Friday evening R. Yeakel, Principal of Union Biblical Institute, preached an able sermon. On Saturday evening F. F. Meyer dispensed the Word.

On Sunday morning so many people gathered that all the standing room in the church was taken, and many crowded about the windows on the outside, to hear Bishop Bowman preach the ordination sermon. His text was Col. 4: 17. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very manifest. In the afternoon Rev. S. L. Wiest, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, preached a missionary sermon. The sum of $3014.17 was raised for missions, exceeding the results of the missionary efforts of any previous session. In the evening the Bishop led a blessed communion service and ordained five brethren as deacons and one as elder.

On Monday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, the business was finished. Then the conference formed a circle and bade each other a hearty farewell, at which many tears flowed, for some realized that it was the last time, that some of them would see each other here below. One inspiring thought cheered their hearts; they would meet again in heaven.

Thus closed one of the most, if not the most, important session of this conference. It was long remembered by those who were present. With mingled feelings of joy and sorrow they hastened home, to tell their families and congregations the conference news, and begin the work of a new year.

At Work—1883-1884

From now on we will take account of the work in Minnesota only.

This was a successful year, resulting in 417 conversions and 495 new members. Paynesville Circuit, with H. Ohs as pastor, took the banner in securing 44 conversions and 42 accessions. Next followed E. J. Hielscher on Odessa Circuit with 33 souls

saved and 56 added to the church. W. Oehler had the pleasure to lead 32 souls to Christ and receive 16 into the church on Waseca Circuit. On old Dakota Circuit W. Lenz had blessed revival meetings, netting 27 conversions and 32 accessions. H. Hensel had the privilege to lead 26 souls to his Master and receive 8 into the church on Blue Earth Circuit. G. J. Schmidt had his labor rewarded with 24 souls for his hire and 33 for the church. M. Gagstetter could not rest unless he secured a goodly number of souls for Christ on Lamberton Circuit, namely, 24, and 27 for the church. Wells Circuit, with Brother Drehmel as shepherd, yielded 18 conversions and 11 accessions. The Lord gave H. Isker on Le Sueur Circuit, A. C. Schmidt on Crow River Circuit, and J. G. Simon on Winona Mission, each 17 souls for their hire. G. Yahn, on St. Charles Circuit, had 14 conversions, F. Moede on Kasson Circuit, 13. All the fields but two had some conversions.

A number of churches were built. A district house was built on 6th Avenue north, in Minneapolis, for the use of the Presiding Elder. A parsonage was built at Faribault, Yankton, Maple Grove (the old one was sold) and at Middle Creek.

Seventeenth Session, 1884

This time the conference met in the capital of the state, St. Paul, in Pine Street Church, on Friday, May 2, 1884. Bishop R. Dubs presided. After the impressive opening exercises he appointed H. Ohs as secretary. He chose G. Spaeth, F. R. Plantikow and G. Husser as his assistants.

The following ministers were present as visitors and were received as advisory members: A. Huelster, A. Knebel, F. G. Sahr, G. W. Hielscher, C. Oertli and L. S. Koch from the Dakota Conference, H. Schelp from the Wisconsin Conference, and G. W. Loechle from the Illinois Conference.

The Personnel

It put the conference into a serious mood when it was announced that William Stegner had gone to his reward during the year. He was the leader in the conference for quite a number of years. He died Aug. 6, 1883, in Minneapolis. Suitable resolutions were adopted by the conference, and an impressive memorial service held, at which the brethren E. J. Hielscher, A. Knebel and

1884

Bishop Dubs paid high tributes to the departed. Scarcely ever was the death of a minister felt so much in the conference, as that of Brother Stegner.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE—1884

Ferdinand F. Arndt, of Paynesville Circuit; Henry A. Seder and James I. Seder, of St. Paul, both sons of the sainted C. L.

Seder, and Louis S. Stapf of Dakota Circuit, were licensed as preachers on probation; the brethren Shimidzu and Horige, of Japan, were also licensed.

W. Walter, G. H. Siebold and Masatada Shimidzu were received into the itinerancy.

C. Brill was elected as delegate to the Board of Missions.

H. Bunse's term as Presiding Elder had expired, and he was re-elected.

Conference Picture

The conference decided to have a conference picture made, and gave the order to make them to an artist by the name of Zimmermann. 600 pictures were ordered, and each pastor in charge had to take a certain number of them to sell on his field. The most of the Dakota brethren were included on the picture. The artist did a good job. Even now many of them are found on the walls of Evangelical homes.

Boundaries

St. Paul Mission was discontinued.

West St. Paul Circuit was changed to a mission.

Chaska was taken from West St. Paul and added to Maple Grove.

The appointments of Maple Grove Circuit, north of the Mississippi River, were constituted a Rush City Mission.

The Poplar Bush appointment was transferred from Paynesville Circuit to St. Cloud Mission.

The appointments near Camp Release were added to Odessa Circuit.

Conference Treasury

It stood well. After paying all the expenses and paying $1850 to the Dakota Conference, there were still $2867.12 left in the treasury.

Stationing Report

It will be noticed that the Presiding Elders were all shifted around.

1884

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul Station, C. Brill
West St. Paul, F. R. Plantikow
Dakota, W. Lenz
East Prairie, G. Spaeth
Faribault, J. G. Drehmel
Kasson, G. Yahn
Rochester, J. L. Stegner
Winona, G. Simon
Redwing, to supply
St. Charles, G. Husser
Mound Prairie, G. Duebendorf
Preston, C. W. Sydow
Hamilton, J. Gongoll

Minneapolis District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Minneapolis, E. H. Baumann
Maple Grove, L. Passer
Rush City, F. F. Arndt, under supervision of L. Passer
Crow River, A. C. Schmidt
Hutchinson, C. F. Sydow
Arlington, G. Britzius
Le Sueur, H. Isker
St. Cloud, G. J. Schmidt and H. A. Seder
Paynesville, H. Ohs
Alexandria, W. Walter
Elizabeth, F. C. Schmidt
Wadena, J. Kienholz

Mankato District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Mankato, J. Manthey
St. Peter, J. H. Schmitt
Waseca, W. Oehler
Wells, F. Moede
Fairmont, L. S. Stapf
Luverne, G. H. Siebold
Blue Earth, H. Hensel
Lamberton, M. Gagstetter
New Ulm, F. Emde
Renville, B. Simon
Odessa, E. J. Hielscher

Religious Services

Besides the devotional services at the opening and close of each half-day session there were the regular evening services during the whole week. Bishop Dubs preached on Friday evening. On Saturday evening A. Knebel dispensed the Word.

On Sunday morning the bishop preached an instructive sermon that gripped all hearts. Then he ordained G. Duebendorf as elder. There were no more men to be ordained at this session. The reason for this was that nearly all the *young* men were left in Dakota. In the afternoon the bishop conducted the communion service and then gave a missionary address, after which $2280 missionary money was secured. In the evening Rev. H. Schelp, a veteran of the Wisconsin Conference, preached a blessed sermon.

Thus closed another blessed session of the Minnesota Conference. Better equipped spiritually the brethren wended their way home to do their best for their Master. The people in St. Paul long remembered this feast of good things.

The New Year—1884-1885

Altogether it was a successful one, resulting in 447 conversions and 596 accessions, bringing the total membership up to

4489. There were 40 ministers at work. I will call attention to a few of the greater results.

E. J. Hielscher capped the climax on Odessa Circuit with 56 conversions and 61 accessions. H. Ohs, on Paynesville Circuit, came next with 43 converts and 41 new members. Then followed A. C. Schmidt on Crow River Circuit with 36 souls saved and 39 won for the church. L. Passer on Maple Grove charge did just as well with 37 regenerations and 27 accessions. The spiritual power manifested itself in Pine Street church in a revival which resulted in 30 conversions and 39 new members, where C. Brill performed the duties of a pastor. L. S. Stapf and O. Schultz on Fairmont Mission rejoiced over the salvation of 29 souls and the accession of 44 new members. F. R. Plantikow gained 20 converts and 20 new members in West St. Paul. Then followed J. G. Simon on Winona Mission with 17 conversions; W. Lenz on Dakota Circuit with 15; Hutchinson, C. F. Sydow, pastor, with 14; Wadena, J. Kienholz, minister, with 11; W. Walter on Alexandria charge with 10; G. J. Schmidt and H. A. Seder, St. Cloud Mission, with 10; Waseca, W. Oehler, pastor, with 12, and New Ulm, F. Emde, minister, with 11.

During the year there was a district house built in Mankato, under the supervision of H. Bunse. In the same city a parsonage was erected under the directions of J. Manthey.

At Wadena, under the supervision of J. Kienholz, a new church was built. The church and parsonage on the old St. Paul Mission on Goodrich Avenue were sold for $2500. The parsonage in West St. Paul was erected that year, under the supervision of H. E. Linse and F. R. Plantikow. On Lamberton Circuit a new church was built.

Eighteenth Meet, 1885

This time the ministers met in the beautiful "Gate City" of the state, Winona. Only once has the Winona congregation been privileged to entertain the conference. Bishop Thomas Bowman called the conference to order on the morning of April 30, 1885, at 8 o'clock. It was the third time he presided over this conference. In his opening address he dwelt upon the talents which were given the servants of the Lord, and the necessity of making good use of them, and being faithful.

Again H. Ohs was appointed secretary, and he chose G. Spaeth and F. R. Plantikow as his assistants.

1885

Among the Ministers

E. J. Hielscher, who had become a familiar figure in the annual sessions, was absent this time on account of the illness of his son, John. Suitable resolutions were passed.

Wm. Walter retired from the active service and lived on a farm at Maple Grove for a number of years, when he returned to the active ranks again.

Charles F. Kachel, Otto Schultz and Julius Graeben were licensed as preachers on probation.

F. F. Arndt, O. Schultz, C. F. Kachel, J. Graeben, John Erich, J. Albert and A. J. Iwan were referred to the Presiding Elders for appointment.

L. S. Stapf and H. A. Seder were received into the itinerancy.

G. H. Siebold and W. Walter were voted their orders as deacons.

H. Isker and G. J. Schmidt were advanced to the order of elder.

H. E. Linse was chosen as delegate to the Board of Missions.

Grading

A change was made in grading the students in their examinations. Instead of marking the papers on a scale of from 1 to 5, it was agreed to mark them from 1 to 100. Those who received a mark of 100 were considered perfect; 90-100 was excellent; 80 to 90 very good; 70 to 80 good; 60 to 70 fair; 50 to 60 bad (poor); 40 to 50 very bad.

Building Committee

The conference created a building committee and decreed that all plans for new churches or parsonages must be submitted to it. H. E. Linse, A. Strohmeier, E. H. Baumann, H. Bunse and W. Oehler were elected as said committee.

The Fields

Mound Prairie and Kasson were changed to missions. Rush City Mission was to be served with Maple Grove. Chaska was to be a separate Mission. The Kromer appointment was added to Chaska Mission.

The appointments near Appleton, Montevideo and Morris, were detached from Odessa Circuit and constituted an Appleton Mission.

1885

Where Did They Go?

Again the Presiding Elders and Bishop had wrestled with the difficult problems of supplying the right men to the proper fields. Eagerly their report was awaited. The bishop read it to the expectant throng as follows:

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul Station, W. Oehler
West St. Paul, F. R. Plantikow
Dakota, H. Ohs
Faribault, J. G. Drehmel
East Prairie, G. Spaeth
Kasson, G. Yahn
Rochester, W. Lenz
St. Charles, G. Husser
Winona, J. L. Stegner
Mound Prairie, G. Duebendorf
Preston, C. W. Sydow
Hamilton, J. Gongoll
Redwing, C. F. Kachel

Minneapolis District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Minneapolis, J. G. Simon
Maple Grove and Rush City, L. Passer and supply
Crow River, A. C. Schmidt
Le Sueur, G. Britzius
Arlington, A. Iwan
Hutchinson, H. Isker
St. Cloud, J. G. Schmidt and H. A. Seder
Paynesville, C. F. Sydow
Alexandria, W. C. Stegner
Elizabeth, F. C. Schmidt
Wadena, J. Kienholz
Chaska, F. F. Arndt, under supervision of A. C. Schmidt

Mankato District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Mankato, J. Manthey
Blue Earth, C. Brill
Waseca, B. Simon
St. Peter, F. Emde
New Ulm, H. Hensel
Renville, M. Gagstetter
Lamberton, Otto Schulz
Odessa, E. J. Hielscher
Appleton, to be supplied
Fairmont, L. S. Stapf and J. Erich
Luverne, G. H. Siebold
Wells, J. H. Schmitt

Caring for the Soul

On Thursday evening, S. Heininger, Corresponding Secretary of the Missionary Society, preached to the edification of the audience. Bishop Bowman gave them a good sermon on Friday evening, while on Saturday evening A. Huelster had the privilege to preach.

On Sunday morning the bishop preached a powerful ordination sermon. In the afternoon he conducted the communion service and ordained four young ministers. In the evening Brother Heininger preached a missionary sermon, after which $1100.00 were pledged for the cause of missions. At the close of this service the ministers formed a circle and took affectionate leave from each other.

1885

Gleaning, 1885-1886

On the whole it was a successful year, though there were not as many conversions as during the previous year. In all 397 souls were led to Christ and 596 new members received into the church. The total membership amounted to 4757. There were 40 ministers in active service.

F. C. Schmidt, on Elizabeth Mission, secured 28 conversions and 24 accessions. The Lord gave B. Simon 26 converts and 45 new members on Waseca Circuit. A. C. Schmidt had good revivals on Crow River Circuit, yielding 24 conversions and accessions. On old Paynesville Circuit C. F. Sydow had 20 regenerations and 25 accessions. F. F. Arndt had 19 conversions on Chaska Mission; J. L. Stegner the same number on Winona Mission, on Dakota Circuit H. Ohs had 18, and on Rochester Mission W. Lenz the same number; C. Brill on Blue Earth Circuit 22; J. Manthey on Mankato Mission 19; G. H. Siebold 17 on Luverne Mission; E. J. Hielscher 15 on Odessa Circuit; O. Schulz 14 on Lamberton Mission; G. Spaeth a like number on East Prairie Circuit; J. G. Drehmel 15 on Faribault Mission; H. Isker 12 on Hutchinson Circuit; L. Passer 13 on Maple Grove Circuit; Kienholz and Vetter 12 on Wadena Mission; Schmidt and Seder 10 on St. Cloud Mission; Stapf and Erich 11 on Fairmont Mission. On other fields there was some success.

At that time Paynesville Circuit topped the list with 371 members; Blue Earth Circuit came next with 268; Odessa and Waseca Circuits each had 212, and Dakota Circuit followed with 201. The remaining fields varied from 22 to 194 members.

One new church is reported. J. Kienholz had built a parsonage in Wadena.

Nineteenth Annual Session, 1886

For this conference session the ministers gathered at Courtland, near New Ulm, in a plain country church, near the Minnesota River, in the immediate vicinity of which the Indians, 24 years before, had killed Rev. Aug. Nierens and several Evangelical members. There was a good-sized society there in 1886, but now it has dwindled down to a few families. The conference met on Thursday morning, April 29th, under the chairmanship of Bishop Escher. In his opening address he exhorted the brethren to be faithful, to keep a pure heart, and to be fully consecrated to God.

He referred to the providential dealings of God, which were again so mysteriously manifested in the sudden death of Brother G. J. Schmidt and his wife, who were killed in a cyclone at Rices shortly before.

The chairman appointed H. Ohs as secretary, who again chose G. Spaeth and F. R. Plantikow as his assistants.

In the Ranks

The death of Brother G. J. Schmidt deeply affected the members of conference, and they passed suitable resolutions and held an impressive memorial service, at which H. E. Linse and A. Strohmeier spoke on the life and work of the deceased.

At the same place and time Brother H. A. Seder was severely injured, but he recovered again after much suffering. He was also remembered by suitable resolutions.

G. Yahn, who was getting old, retired from the active service.

Albert G. Sahr of Odessa, Reinhold M. Mueller of Blue Earth, William J. Vetter, and Ferdinand Wolter of Waseca were licensed to preach.

L. S. Stapf and F. F. Arndt were ordained as deacons and H. A. Seder was voted his ordination as such to be ordained as soon as he was well enough and a bishop present.

C. F. Kachel, J. Erich, O. Schulz, F. F. Arndt and A. J. Iwan were received into the itinerancy.

R. M. Mueller, W. J. Vetter, Ferd. Wolter, A. G. Sahr and J. Graeben were recommended to the Presiding Elders for appointment.

A. G. Sahr and W. J. Vetter had preached part of the year, the former on Appleton Mission and the latter on Wadena Mission.

A. Strohmeier was re-elected as Presiding Elder.

H. E. Linse was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Aug. Knebel resigned as Presiding Elder in the Dakota Conference and returned to this conference.

Salary Scale

The ministers felt that they must have more salary, if they should meet the demands made upon them, and lay up a little for old age. The people were getting into better circumstances and could afford to pay more toward the support of the Gospel. Therefore the conference raised their salaries according to the following scale:

1886

Single preachers on probation should have $200.00 a year.
Married preachers on probation should have $250.00 a year.
Deacons, $300 a year.
Elders during first and second years, $400.00 a year.
Elders during third and fourth years, $450.00 a year.
Elders after the fourth year, $500.00 a year.
Presiding Elders, $625.00 a year.

Ministers in cities should have $100 extra. All were entitled to free house rent and actual moving expenses, and Presiding Elders to their traveling expenses in the performance of their official duties.

Many of the fields did not come up to the mark the first year, and many ministers came to the next session with a deficit in their salary.

Telegrams

The conference received a telegram from the Wisconsin Conference, expressing sympathy in relation to the death of Brother Schmidt and others, and offering as a greeting Romans 8: 28.

The Minnesota Conference reciprocated and sent a message of thanks and offered as a greeting 2 Thessalonians 2: 16, 17.

The conference also sent greetings by wire to the Atlantic Conference, then in session, citing as a greeting 2 Cor. 13: 13.

St. Paul Church

The old church on Pine Street was becoming too small and was impracticable for a city church. An agitation for a new church had been going on for some time, and at the conference session, in 1885, action was taken, favoring the project. The whole conference district was thrown open for the solicitor for said new church. W. Oehler was the pastor at the time. A good building committee was appointed, suitable plans adopted, and the building carried out. A new parsonage was built back of the church and was already occupied by the pastor's family. The church was finished in the summer of 1886. It cost $17,700. It was the finest church in the conference at that time.

Boundaries

There were only a few minor changes made. Amboy and Schwankes were transferred from Fairmont to Mankato Mission. A Sleepy Eye Mission was created of appointments taken from New Ulm Circuit.

1886

Appointments

On Friday evening, after the preaching service, Bishop Escher read the appointments. That gave the people a chance to hear where all the ministers were going:

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul, W. Oehler
West St. Paul, F. R. Plantikow
Dakota, H. Ohs
East Prairie, G. Spaeth
Faribault, J. G. Drehmel
Kasson, C. W. Sydow
Rochester, J. Gongoll
Redwing, C. F. Kachel
St. Charles, G. Husser
Winona, J. L. Stegner
Mound Prairie, G. Duebendorf
Preston, W. Lenz
Hamilton, J. Graeben

Minneapolis District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

Minneapolis, J. G. Simon
Maple Grove, J. Kienholz
Crow River, E. J. Hielscher
Chaska, F. F. Arndt
Le Sueur, G. Britzius
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Arlington, A. J. Iwan
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt and H. A. Seder
Paynesville, C. F. Sydow
Alexandria, F. Moede
Elizabeth, W. J. Vetter
Wadena, L. Passer and Ferd. Wolter

Mankato District—H. Bunse, P. E.

New Ulm and Sleepy Eye, H. Hensel and John Erich
Waseca, B. Simon
Wells, G. H. Siebold
Blue Earth, C. Brill
Fairmont, F. C. Schmidt and supply
Mankato, J. Manthey and J. H. Schmitt
Luverne, L. S. Stapf and R. M. Mueller
St. Peter, F. Emde
Lamberton, O. Schulz
Renville, M. Gagstetter
Odessa, A. Knebel
Appleton, A. G. Sahr

Preaching Services

W. Yost was requested to preach on Thursday evening. Bishop Escher delivered an able sermon on Friday evening. On Saturday evening it was the privilege of Aug. Huelster to dispense the Gospel. Sunday was the great day of the session. In the forenoon the bishop preached a model ordination sermon, and then ordained two young ministers. In the afternoon he conducted the communion service, which was most blessed. This was followed by a missionary service at which $1363 was secured. In the evening the bishop held the audience spellbound for two hours by his description of his trip around the world, and especially through Palestine.

After this last service the conference adjourned, and the next day the ministers hastened home to take up their sacred work anew.

1886

How They Worked, 1886-1887

Extraordinary success was achieved on Wells Circuit, where G. H. Siebold held the fort. He secured 81 souls for his Master and 84 for the church. Next came A. Knebel with 50 converts and 56 new members on Odessa Circuit. Those were glorious meetings! Husser secured 37 conversions and 29 accessions on St. Charles charge; Gagstetter had 30 regenerations and 49 accessions on Renville field; Vetter led 27 to Christ and 37 into the church on Elizabeth Mission; A. C. Schmidt rejoiced over 20 conversions and 39 accessions on St. Cloud Mission; C. F. Kachel had 12 conversions on Redwing Mission, J. Kienholz 13 on Maple Grove, E. J. Hielscher 13 on Crow River, C. F. Sydow 14 on Paynesville, B. Simon 19 on Waseca and L. S. Stapf 17 on Luverne charge.

In all there were 371 conversions and 513 new accessions, bringing the total membership up to 4934. Two new churches were reported, one from Wells Circuit and the other from Renville Circuit. In Appleton and Kasson each a house was bought for parsonage purposes.

Twentieth Annual Session, 1887

This time the ministers met in the metropolis of the State, Minneapolis, in the Sixth Avenue Church. They convened on Thursday morning, April 28, 1887, under the chairmanship of Bishop R. Dubs. He opened the session with devotional exercises and gave an opening address.

He appointed H. Ohs as secretary, who chose G. Spaeth and G. Duebendorf as his assistants.

The following visiting brethren attended the conference: W. Yost, S. Heininger and J. Lerch, general officers, Emil Mueller of the Iowa, Wm. Huelster of the Illinois, Carl Finger of the Wisconsin, and F. G. Sahr of the Dakota Conference.

Revising the Lists

Aug. Huelster returned to this conference after he had served four years as Presiding Elder in Dakota.

J. G. Drehmel retired from the active work and settled down in Faribault. He had been in the active service 19 years.

J. Erich took his credentials to enter the Kansas Conference.

William A. Juedes, Charles W. Wolthausen, Silas B. Goetz and J. Harrison Bauernfeind were licensed as preachers on probation.

A. J. Iwan, J. Erich, C. F. Kachel and O. Schulz were voted their orders as deacon, and G. H. Siebold was advanced to the order of elder.

Masata Shimidzu, of Japan, also had his orders as deacon voted him.

W. J. Vetter, R. M. Mueller, A. G. Sahr and J. Graeben were received into the itinerancy.

H. E. Linse's term as Presiding Elder had expired. He was re-elected for another term. He was also elected as delegate to the Board of Missions.

H. E. Linse, A. Strohmeier and H. Bunse were elected delegates to the General Conference, which was to convene the next fall. W. Oehler and J. G. Simon were elected alternates. At this time H. E. Linse was the leader in the conference. He succeeded to this position upon the death of W. Stegner.

A Distinguished Visitor

Bishop Cyrus D. Foss, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was introduced to the conference. Upon request the worthy bishop addressed the conference in an interesting and instructive manner. Bishop Dubs fittingly responded. Upon this the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved that it offered us great pleasure to greet Bishop Foss in our midst and to listen to his excellent address. We assure him that we appreciate his kind wishes and prayers for the success of our work, and trust that they will be fully realized. May the great Head of the Church bless our venerable brother and grant him a long life, crowning it, as heretofore, with the riches of his grace and glory."

Benevolence

The members of the Evangelical Association have always been known for their philanthropic spirit. Many members responded to the call for aid for the victims of the cyclone at Rices. For their relief $503.59 were gathered and distributed through the agency of a ministerial committee.

Conference Seal

Thus far the conference was without a seal, therefore one was ordered made at this session, which has been in use ever since.

Conference Journal

The first steps were taken for the publishing of a Conference Journal. Other conferences began publishing them, and ours fol-

lowed suit. A committee was appointed, consisting of W. Oehler, G. Husser, J. G. Simon and J. I. Seder, to make the necessary preparations for publishing a Journal, containing the proceedings of the next session.

Arranging the Fields

South St. Paul was taken up as a mision, to be served in connection with West St. Paul.

St. Cloud Mission was divided; the appointments north-west of St. Cloud constituting Royalton Mission.

North Minneapolis was taken up as a new mission. Twentieth Avenue north was fixed as the boundary line.

Blue Earth City was detached from Blue Earth Circuit and called Blue Earth City Mission.

Le Sueur Mission was transferred from Minneapolis to Mankato District.

Odessa and Appleton were taken from Mankato and added to Minneapolis District.

Stationing

The Stationing Committee, after due deliberation, brought in the following report:

St. Paul District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

St. Paul, Wm. Oehler
West and South St. Paul, G. Husser
Dakota, G. Spaeth
East Prairie, F. R. Plantikow
Faribault, Aug. Huelster
Kasson, C. W. Sydow
Rochester, J. Gongoll
St. Charles, H. Ohs
Winona, J. L. Stegner
Redwing, C. F. Kachel
Mound Prairie, J. Graeben
Preston, W. Lenz
Hamilton, G. Duebendorf

Minneapolis District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

Minneapolis, J. G. Simon
North Minneapolis, J. I. Seder
Maple Grove, Rush City and Duluth, J. Kienholz and supply
Crow River, E. J. Hielscher
Chaska, F. F. Arndt
Arlington, A. J. Iwan
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Paynesville, C. F. Sydow and supply
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt
Royalton, H. A. Seder
Wadena, L. Passer and W. A. Juedes
Alexandria, C. W. Wolthausen
Elizabeth, W. J. Vetter
Appleton, A. G. Sahr
Odessa, Aug. Knebel

Mankato District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Mankato, J. H. Schmitt and R. M. Mueller
Waseca, B. Simon
Wells, G. H. Siebold and supply
Blue Earth Circuit and Blue Earth Mission, C. Brill and supply
Fairmont, F. C. Schmidt and F. R. Wolter
Luverne and Pipestone, L. S. Stapf and S. B. Geotz
Renville, M. Gagstetter
New Ulm and Sleepy Eye, H. Hensel
St. Peter, F. Emde
Le Sueur, G. Britzius
Lamberton, O. Schulz

1887

Worship

The spiritual needs were not forgotten. On Thursday evening Emil Mueller, of Iowa, preached; on Friday evening Bishop Dubs; on Saturday evening Wm. Huelster, of Illinois. On Sunday morning the bishop preached the ordination sermon on Phil. 2: 5-11, describing Christ in his pre-mundane condition, in his humiliation and in his exalted position. In the afternoon he ordained the brethren entitled to their ordination, after which S. Heininger led the missionary meeting, in which $1357 were pledged. In the evening holy communion was celebrated, led by the bishop. Thus closed another memorable session.

With new courage and higher aims the brethren left Minneapolis and hastened to their homes to begin the labors of a new year. Possibly some were disappointed with their appointments and went with a trembling heart.

Out in the Field, 1887-1888

In the number of conversions the banner went to West St. Paul, where Rev. Husser had 50, and 62 accessions. On Luverne and Pipestone Missions, Stapf and Goetz had 38 regenerations and 47 accessions. The Lord gave C. F. Sydow 28 souls for his hire on Paynesville Circuit and 25 for the church. On Faribault charge Brother Huelster had a harvest of 24 conversions and 45 accessions. On Wells Circuit G. H. Siebold, pastor, the Lord gave another gracious revival, resulting in 22 converts and 29 accessions. On East Prairie F. R. Plantikow had 16 conversions, on St. Charles H. Ohs 13, on Winona J. L. Stegner 12, on Hutchinson H. Isker 12, on Wadena L. Passer and W. A. Juedes 11, on Odessa A. Knebel 12, on Waseca B. Simon 10, on Renville M. Gagstetter 13, and on Lamberton O. Schulz 13.

Altogether there were 362 conversions and 762 accessions. It will be noticed that there were more than twice as many new members than converts. The total membership went up over the 5000 mark, being 5127, a net gain of 193.

Four new churches were reported, one at Highland Park, Minneapolis, one in West Winona, one on Wells Circuit and the fourth on Luverne and Pipestone Mission. Parsonages were erected at Royalton and Sherburn. The conference now had 73 churches and 35 parsonages.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Conference Session, 1888

After a year of blessings, work and trials the brethren turned their faces toward Salem, on Paynesville Circuit, and met there in annual session on Thursday, May 3, 1888. Bishop Thos. Bowman presided.

The bishop opened the session with devotional exercises and then delivered the opening address. He said in part, that the ministers should be faithful in the performance of their sacred duties, and called attention to the dangers which were threatening our church, and advised that much patience be exercised.

W. Oehler was appointed secretary. He chose C. W. Sydow, G. Husser and J. I. Seder as his assistants.

Journal

The committee which had been appointed at the last session to make preparations for publishing a Conference Journal reported that they had secured some ads and taken steps to have the present conference proceedings published in pamphlet form. They planned to publish 1500 copies; each minister was to receive 30, for which he was to pay $1.00, and was to sell them for five cents each. If any profits accrued the committee was to have them for their pay. This plan continued until 1912, when a new one was adopted.

The Ministers

Herman Plantikow, Frederick Schild, Gustave A. Lippert, William Knopp and John Wolter were licensed as preachers on probation.

J. Graeben, R. M. Mueller, A. G. Sahr, J. I. Seder and W. J. Vetter were promoted to the order of deacon.

H. A. Seder, F. F. Arndt and L. S. Stapf were advanced to the order of elder.

J. I. Seder was received into the itinerancy.

H. Bunse's second term as Presiding Elder had expired. J. G. Simon was elected in his stead.

H. E. Linse was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Boundaries

West St. Paul was changed to a station, and South St. Paul was to be served with it.

Faribault and Lamberton Missions were advanced to circuits.

Farmington was taken up as a mission.

Brainerd and vicinity was constituted a mission.

St. Clair, Bittners, Kopp, Amboy and Schwankes were constituted Amboy Mission.

Pipestone and the surrounding country, together with the appointments near Marshall, were to be called Pipestone Mission.

These were only a few changes, but some of them were important.

Where They Went

The bishop read the appointments on Saturday forenoon as follows:

St. Paul District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. L. Stegner
West St. Paul and South St. Paul, G. Husser and C. W. Wolthausen*
Dakota and Farmington, G. Spaeth and supply
East Prairie, F. R. Plantikow
Faribault, Aug. Huelster
Kasson, C. W. Sydow
Rochester, J. Gongoll
Frontenac, H. Plantikow
St. Charles, H. Ohs
Winona, W. Oehler
Hamilton, G. Duebendorf
Preston, W. Lenz
Mound Prairie, J. Graeben

*C. W. Wolthausen served on St. Charles Circuit.

Minneapolis District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Bunse
Minneapolis, Highland Park, J. I. Seder
Maple Grove, J. Kienholz
Rush City, W. A. Juedes
Crow River, E. J. Hielscher
Chaska, A. J. Iwan
Arlington, A. G. Sahr
Hutchinson, C. F. Kachel
Paynesville, H. Isker and supply
St. Cloud, A. C. Schmidt
Royalton, W. J. Vetter
Alexandria, F. Moede
Brainerd, C. F. Sydow
Wadena, L. Passer
Elizabeth, H. A. Seder
Appleton, R. M. Mueller
Odessa, A. Knebel

Mankato District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

Mankato, C. Brill
Amboy, Fred Schild
Wells, G. H. Siebold
Waseca, J. H. Schmitt
Blue Earth and Blue Earth City, B. Simon and supply
Fairmont, F. C. Schmitt and F. R. Wolter
Luverne, L. S. Stapf
Pipestone, S. B. Goetz and G. A. Lippert
Lamberton, F. F. Arndt
Renville, H. Hensel
New Ulm and Sleepy Eye, M. Gagstetter
St. Peter, G. Britzius
Le Sueur, O. Schulz

On St. Paul District there were only a few changes made, but on the other districts nearly all of the ministers had to move. Several ministers exchanged fields.

1888

Devotional

There is no way of finding out who preached during the first part of the week. On account of much rain and muddy roads, the preaching services were held at 1:30 in the afternoon instead in the evening, on Thursday and Friday. L. S. Stapf preached on Thursday afternoon, A. Huelster on Friday afternoon, and Bishop Bowman on Saturday evening.

Sunday was a beautiful day. The spring sun greeted them with its warm rays; nature was in its best. The people came from all directions, and long before the appointed hour the spacious church was filled with eager listeners. The bishop began the services 30 minutes before the appointed hour. He preached a powerful ordination sermon. It was good to be there. Great waves of blessings came over the assembled throng. In the afternoon various ministers were ordained under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Then S. Heininger led the missionary meeting, at which $2109 were secured for the cause of missions. In the evening S. Heininger preached and then the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

Thus closed another memorable session.

What They Did—1888-1889

This was a very successful year in the line of soul-winning, for there were 812 conversions reported, and 796 accessions. This brought the membership up to 5590.

B. Simon had wonderful success on Blue Earth Circuit, having 72 conversions and 46 accessions. Brother Siebold had great revivals on Wells Circuit, netting 56 converts and 47 new members. Such meetings can never be forgotten by those who had the privilege to take part in them. Another good report came from Odessa Circuit, where A. Knebel led 48 souls to Christ and welcomed 39 into the church. The revival fires burned bright on Kasson Circuit, where C. W. Sydow preached, so that 42 were born into the Kingdom and 55 received into the church. The brethren Husser and Wolthausen were busy on St. Charles Circuit, gathering in 41 souls for Christ and 34 into the church. Even in the large cities the Lord revived his work, and J. L. Stegner secured 35 conversions and 37 accessions on Pine Street, St. Paul Station. At Sleepy Eye Brother Gagstetter held on until he had 32 conversions and 37 accessions. H. A. Seder had 27 conversions, but

only 9 accessions on Elizabeth Mission. The Lord gave A. G. Sahr 24 souls for his hire on Arlington Mission and 33 members for the church. F. F. Arndt received credit for 23 converts and 19 new members on Lamberton Circuit. E. J. Hielscher finished his last year on Crow River Circuit with 20 regenerations and 27 accessions. Waseca Circuit was quickened by 20 conversions and 16 new members. J. H. Schmitt was pastor here, but he died during the year. J. G. Drehmel finished the year on this charge. Luverne, L. S. Stapf, pastor, and Paynesville, H. Isker, pastor, had 18 and 14 conversions respectively. G. Spaeth, on Farmington and Dakota charges, had 11 conversions; G. Husser, on Winifred Street, St. Paul, 14; F. R. Plantikow, on East Prairie, 14; J. Kienholz, on Maple Grove, 17; C. F. Kachel, on Hutchinson, 17; H. Isker, on Paynesville, 14; A. C. Schmidt, on St. Cloud, 18; F. Moede, on Alexandria, 10; Brother Passer, on Wadena, 13; Goetz and Lippert, on Pipestone, 14; H. Hensel, on Renville, 17, and O. Schulz, on Le Sueur, 17.

An increase of four churches was reported; one from Frontenac Mission, where H. Plantikow served his first year; a second was built in St. Cloud, under the supervision of A. C. Schmidt; the third at Elm Dale, where W. J. Vetter was the pastor, and in Brainerd one was bought. Parsonages were built on Hamilton Circuit, Frontenac Mission and Highland Park, Minneapolis.

Twenty-Second Session, 1889

For the first time the conference met in the Winifred Street Church of St. Paul. Bishop R. Dubs called the conference to order on Thursday, May 2, 1889, at 8:00 A. M. It was the last time he presided over the Minnesota Conference. He opened the session in the usual way.

He appointed H. Ohs as secretary, who chose J. I. Seder and C. W. Wolthausen as his assistants. It was the last time Rev. Ohs served as secretary of the conference. He served seven years as secretary.

The following visiting brethren were present and were heartily welcomed: S. Heininger, H. Mattill, Publisher; Prof. S. L. Umbach, of Union Biblical Institute; Tr. Umbreit, of Wisconsin; Wm. Huelster of Illinois, and G. W. Hielscher and L. S. Koch of Dakota.

1889

The Ministerial Lists

The following brethren were licensed as preachers on probation: George H. Schaefer, of Wisconsin; August Reeck and John M. Baitinger, of Paynesville Circuit; August T. Ehlert, of Brush Creek; F. G. Draeger, of East Prairie; Carl A. Tesch, of Crow River Circuit; Albert H. Utzinger, of Hamilton Circuit, and Peter Koch.

G. H. Schaefer and Aug. Reeck were advanced one year because they had already preached a year.

C. W. Wolthausen, W. A. Juedes, S. B. Goetz, F. R. Wolter were voted their orders as deacons.

O. Schulz, A. J. Iwan, C. F. Kachel and M. Shimidzu were advanced to the order of elder.

S. B. Goetz, W. A. Juedes, F. R. Wolter and C. W. Wolthausen were reecived into the itinerancy.

H. E. Linse was again sent as delegate to the Board of Missions.

James I. Seder

Brother Seder, who had served the Highland Park, Minneapolis, Mission two years, was appointed by the General Board of Missions as missionary to Japan, and, therefore, took no appointment in this conference at this session. Suitable resolutions were passed in his behalf.

Memorial

John H. Schmitt had died during the year. He was one of the pioneer Evangelical preachers in Minnesota. The following resolutions were passed:

Whereas it has pleased God to take our dear Brother John H. Schmitt out of our midst through death, therefore resolved:

1. That we, as a conference, deeply feel the departure of our dear brother.

2. That we gratefully recognize his diligence and the sacrifices he made as one of the founders of the work of God in our conference during the 31 years of his active itinerancy.

3. Although his death is our loss, yet we will submit to God's allwise Providence, knowing that what God does is well done. We wish him eternal rest and joy.

4. That we herewith express our deep sympathy with the bereaved family, and pray God to abundantly comfort them.

1889

Brother M. Zickerick, of St. Charles, who traveled a few years and was a respected local preacher for many years, had also died during the year. He was also remembered in resolutions.

A solemn and impressive memorial service was held on Saturday afternoon, at which the bishop spoke very fittingly.

Projected College

Some agitation had been going on during the year for the founding of a college or high school. A committee of seven, consisting of the bishop, C. Brill, A. Huelster, G. Husser, J. Kienholz, E. J. Hielscher, J. L. Stegner and W. Oehler, was appointed to consider the matter and report to the conference. This committee brought in a long report, favoring the project, recommending that initiatory steps be taken, the Dakota Conference be requested to join the Minnesota Conference in this undertaking, a delegate be sent to the Dakota Conference, a collection be taken on every appointment for this purpose, and a committee of nine be appointed, whose duty it was to secure offers from different cities, who were anxious to have said institution located in their midst, and to report all their doings to the conference at its next session. This report was adopted. The following nine brethren, three from each district, were elected: H. E. Linse, H. Bunse, H. Isker, J. G. Simon, C. Brill, C. W. Sydow, W. Oehler, G. Spaeth and E. J. Hielscher.

H. Bunse was elected as delegate, in this matter, to the Dakota Conference.

The committee reported to the conference at its next session, that it had received a bid from Bigstone City, Dakota, and one from Le Sueur. To the great sorrow of several interested persons this project died at the age of one year, and was never resurrected. It is no small matter to found and maintain a denominational seminary or high school.

Boundaries

Quite a number of changes were made in the make-up of the fields:

Oak Ridge, Schaefers, Minneiska and Elba were detached from St. Charles Circuit and constituted an Oak Ridge Mission

Waseca Circuit was transferred from Mankato to St. Paul District.

St. Cloud Mission was divided, the city of St. Cloud constituting a city mission, and the remaining appointments were called South Haven Mission.

1889

The village of Paynesville, the Grove and Eden Valley were constituted a Paynesville Mission, and the rest of the old Paynesville Circuit was called Zion Circuit.

Borns was transferred from Waseca to Wells. Nicollet was taken from St. Peter and added to New Ulm. Le Sueur and Le Sueur Prairie were united with St. Peter Mission, and the name was changed to Le Sueur Mission.

What was left of the former Le Sueur Mission was called Le Sueur Center Mission.

Worthington, Lakefield, Heron Lake, Fulda and Ratlisbergers were formed into a Worthington Mission.

Lake Shoakatan, Muellers, Lake Benton, Marshall and surrounding country were constituted a Marshall Mission.

Appointments

Again the time arrived for the bishop to read the appointments:

St. Paul District—A. Strohmeier, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. L. Stegner
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Husser
Dakota and Farmington, G. Spaeth and A. Reeck
East Prarie, F. R. Plantikow
Faribault, A. Huelster
Kasson, L. Passer
Rochester, F. Moede
Hamilton, G. Duebendorf
Preston, E. J. Hielscher
Mound Prarie, J. Graeben
St. Charles and Oak Ridge, H. Ohs and J. M. Baitinger
Winona, W. Oehler
Frontenac, H. Plantikow
Waseca, Aug. Knebel

Minneapolis District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Bunse
Minneapolis, Highland Park, to supply
Maple Grove and Rush City, J. Manthey and W. A. Juedes
Crow River, J. Kienholz
Chaska, A. J. Iwan
Hutchinson, C. F. Kachel
Arlington, A. G. Sahr
Zion, H. Isker
Paynesville, A. C. Schmidt
St. Cloud, J. Gongoll
South Haven, F. Emde
Royalton, W. J. Vetter
Brainerd, A. H. Utzinger
Alexandria, C. F. Sydow
Wadena, G. H. Siebold and C. A. Tesch
Elizabeth, H. A. Seder
Odessa, W. Lenz
Appleton, R. M. Mueller

Mankato District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

Mankato, C. Brill
Blue Earth and Blue Earth City, B. Simon and G. H. Schaefer
Wells, C. W. Sydow and G. A. Lippert
Le Sueur, L. S. Stapf
Le Sueur Center, O. Schulz
New Ulm and Sleepy Eye, M. Gagstetter and A. T. Ehlert
Renville, H. Hensel
Lamberton, F. F. Arndt
Fairmont, G. Britzius
Worthington, S. B. Goetz
Luverne, F. C. Schmidt
Pipestone, F. R. Wolter
Marshall, C. W. Wolthausen
Amboy, F. Schild

J. I. Seder served Highland Park part of the year, and E. H. Baumann served it the rest of the year.

Brother Lippert became ill during the year, and then A. Zabel was appointed to fill the vacancy on Wells Circuit.

For the Soul

Bishop Dubs preached on Thursday evening, H. Mattill on Friday evening, and on Saturday evening, S. L. Umbach. On account of our Winifred Street church being too small to accommodate the crowds, the services were held in the Clinton Avenue M. E. church on Sunday. In the forenoon the bishop preached the ordination sermon, portraying the life of the apostle Peter. In the afternoon he ordained the men entitled to their ordination, and then led the missionary meeting. On Sunday evening the bishop preached in the English language. The communion service was held in the morning at 9 o'clock.

The business of the conference was finished on Monday afternoon.

During the Year 1889-1890

The number of conversions decreased from 812 to 428. There were 641 new members received, bringing the total membership up to 5781.

Taking the highest number of conversions as a starting point, we begin with Le Sueur Mission, L. S. Stapf, pastor, where the different revivals resulted in 33 converts and 38 new members. The brethren C. W. Sydow and Zabel secured 24 conversions and 26 accessions on Wells Circuit. This circuit had been blessed with great revivals for a number of years. The brethren Siebold and Tesch were rewarded with 27 regenerations and 40 new members. That materially strengthened the work on Wadena Mission. On Paynesville Mission the Lord gave A. C. Schmidt 25 conversions and 37 accessions. Brother Passer rejoiced over 22 conversions and 21 new members on Kasson Circuit. On Zion Circuit, with H. Isker as pastor, 21 souls pressed into the Kingdom of God, and 20 were received into church fellowship. W. Oehler reported 20 conversions and 19 accessions from Winona. Other good revivals were held at St. Charles and Oak Ridge, Ohs and Baitinger, pastors, resulting in 18 conversions; at Hamilton, G. Duebendorf, pastor, 16; Winifred Street, G. Husser, 11; Waseca, A. Knebel, 15; Odessa, W. Lenz, 12; Pipestone, F. R. Wolter, 14; Worthing-

ton, S. B. Goetz, 14; Lamberton, F. F. Arndt, 13; New Ulm, M. Gagstetter, 13, and Le Sueur Center, O. Schulz, 12.

There were five new churches built during the year: one near Madison, under the supervision of R. M. Mueller; another at Hutchinson, under the direction of C. F. Kachel; a third at Olivia, where H. Hensel was overseer; a fourth at Springfield, under the supervision of F. F. Arndt, and the fifth at Grafton, where A. G. Sahr was the pastor. At East Prairie, under the leadership of F. R. Plantikow, the old church had to give way to a substantial new one.

Brother Schmidt had a new parsonage built in Paynesville, and Brother C. F. Sydow saw to it that one was erected in Alexandria. A. H. Utzinger risked it, upon advice of his Presiding Elder, to build a new parsonage in Brainerd, where there were only three members at the time on the whole field. O. Schulz erected a parsonage at Le Sueur Center.

Twenty-Third Session, 1890

This was a *memorable* session. The conference convened in Emanuel's Church, four miles east of Blue Earth, on Thursday morning, May 1, 1890. Bishop J. J. Escher was present and presided. He opened the session with very impressive devotional exercises, and delivered an opening address that was appropriate to the conditions of that time. He referred feelingly to the difficulties existing in our beloved church.

H. Isker was appointed secretary, and he chose G. Duebendorf and C. W. Wolthausen as his assistants.

H. Mattill, W. Horn, editor of the *Christliche Botschafter*, and W. Yost were present.

Promotions, Etc.

Albert Zabel, Edward H. Bollenbach, H. Lukensmeier, August F. Herzberg and R. Petrich were licensed.

H. Plantikow, A. Reeck, G. H. Schaefer, F. Schild and G. A. Lippert were advanced to the order of deacon and received into the itinerancy.

R. M. Mueller, W. J. Vetter, J. Graeben, A. G. Sahr and J. I. Seder were voted their orders as elders.

C. Brill and A. Strohmeier retired from the active ranks. Brother Strohmeier had just closed his fourth consecutive term

as Presiding Elder. The conference passed the following resolution relative to their retirement:

"Resolved that we, as a conference, much regret that the brethren A. Strohmeier and C. Brill, who served faithfully for many years in our conference, and in the early years did hard pioneer work, consider it necessary, on account of physical ailments, to retire from the active service. We deeply sympathize with the dear brethren, pray God's blessing upon them, and hope that the Lord will restore their health, so they may again come into the active ranks."

In the stead of A. Strohmeier, F. R. Plantikow was elected Presiding Elder. He was at that time a comparatively young minister, being 34 years of age, and having preached 12 years.

H. E. Linse was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Boundaries

This was the smallest report on boundaries so far presented to the conference. The Borns appointment was taken from Wells and restored to Waseca Circuit.

Whom the Fields Received?

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. L. Stegner
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Spaeth
Dakota and Farmington, J. Graeben
East Prairie, G. Husser
Faribault, A. J. Iwan
Kasson, L. Passer
Rochester, F. Moede
Hamilton, H. Ohs
Preston, E. J. Hielscher
Mound Prairie, G. A. Lippert
St. Charles and Oak Ridge, A. Huelster and A. F. Herzberg
Winona, G. Duebendorf
Frontenac, H. Plantikow
Waseca, A. Knebel

Minneapolis District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Bunse
Minneapolis, Highland Park, J. M. Baitinger
Maple Grove, J. Manthey
Rush City, W. A. Juedes
Crow River, J. Kienholz
Chaska, F. Schild
Arlington, A. G. Sahr
Hutchinson, C. F. Kachel
Paynesville, A. C. Schmidt
Zion, H. Isker
St. Cloud, J. Gongoll
South Haven, F. Emde
Royalton, W. J. Vetter
Brainerd, A. H. Utzinger
Wadena, G. H. Siebold and A. T. Ehlert
Elizabeth, H. A. Seder
Alexandria, C. F. Sydow
Odessa, W. Lenz
Appleton, R. M. Mueller

Mankato District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

Mankato and Amboy, A. Reeck and F. H. Draeger
Blue Earth Circuit, B. Simon
Blue Earth City, G. H. Schaefer

1890

Wells, C. W. Sydow and A. Zabel
Le Sueur, L. S. Stapf
Le Sueur Center, O. Schulz
New Ulm and Sleepy Eye, M. Gagstetter and C. A. Tesch
Renville, H. Hensel
Lamberton, F. F. Arndt
Worthington, S. B. Goetz
Luverne, F. C. Schmidt
Pipestone, F. R. Wolter
Marshall, C. W. Wolthausen
Fairmont, G. Britzius

Devotional

H. Mattill preached on Thursday evening, Friday evening Bishop Escher, Saturday evening W. Horn. These were all strong preachers. On Sunday morning a snowstorm raged, which made it very unpleasant to get to the church. Some of the families and ministers could not get to the services in the morning. The bishop preached a blessed ordination sermon on Col. 4: 17, and several other Scripture passages. In the afternoon he ordained those whom their orders had been voted. W. Horn then conducted the communion service. In the evening W. Yost preached a missionary sermon, and then plead for contributions for the cause of missions, securing $2100.

On Monday evening H. Mattill preached once more. The business was concluded Monday evening. At the close the ministers formed a circle and shook hands with each other, and said a word of farewell. The emotions manifested themselves in tears, which flowed down the cheeks of many. On Tuesday the ministers scattered in all directions, to reach their homes, with new resolves to work for their Master.

In the Field, 1890-1891

There was an increase in conversions. The Lord gave the conference 517 regenerations and 705 new members, raising the total membership to 5901.

Starting with the highest number we must begin with Wadena Mission, where the brethren Siebold and Ehlert secured 56 conversions and 43 accessions. J. Kienholz had great revivals on Crow River Circuit, resulting in the salvation of 46 souls and the accession of 41. In different revivals on Brainerd Mission A. H. Utzinger won 45 souls for Christ and 63 for the church. The Lord gave Brother Isker 39 souls for his hire and 38 for the church on Zion Circuit. They had lively times there. A. G. Sahr's labors were rewarded by 29 conversions and 28 accessions on Arlington Mission. Brother Lenz was made to praise God for 25 souls saved and 21 received into the church on Odessa Circuit.

1890

On Highland Park Mission, J. M. Baitinger reported 24 conversions and 28 new members. On Wells Circuit the brethren Sydow and Zabel won 20 souls for Christ and 13 for the church. Other charges had less conversions, but good success, nevertheless: East Prairie, G. Husser, pastor, 13; Waseca, A. Knebel, 10; Chaska, F. Schild, 10; Hutchinson, C. F. Kachel, 10; Paynesville, A. C. Schmidt, 16; Royalton, W. J. Vetter, 15; Le Sueur, L. S. Stapf, 15; Sleepy Eye, M. Gagstetter, 13; Lamberton, F. F. Arndt, 14; Worthington, S. B. Goetz, 14; Marshall, C. W. Wolthausen, 10. Other fields had less than 10 conversions.

The reader should remember that the figures given in this work in connection with conversions are taken from the statistical reports as recorded in the conference record. They are not copied out of God's records. The figures in God's Book may vary very much from these. Not all who profess conversion have really pressed into the kingdom of God. Some ministers are much more thorough in their work than others.

Four new churches were reported built during the year. One at Le Sueur, under the supervision of L. S. Stapf; another at Amboy, under the direction of Reeck and Draeger; a third at Western, H. A. Seder, pastor, and the fourth at Bear Valley, supervised by H. Plantikow.

Twenty-Fourth Session, 1891

This time the conference convened on old historic ground, where the Iowa Conference had held two annual sessions, namely, in 1865 and 1866. But the old church had been replaced by a nice new one, which was a credit to the congregation at East Prairie.

Bishop Thomas Bowman called the conference to order on Thursday morning, May 1, 1891. After opening the session with intensely spiritual devotional exercises, he gave the opening address, in which he did not mince words, but hewed straight from the shoulder.

He appointed H. Isker secretary, who chose G. Duebendorf and J. Graeben as his assistants.

The Workers

Brother C. Brill had died shortly before the conference session. Suitable resolutions were passed, and on Saturday morning a memorial service was held, at which E. J. Hielscher spoke on: Brother Brill as Preacher; H. Bunse on: Brother Brill as Man

and Christian, and G. Spaeth conveyed Brother Brill's last greetings to the conference.

Gustave Reckow, G. J. Beck, Emmet Helmer and J. J. Boelter were licensed to preach.

A. H. Utzinger, A. T. Ehlert, J .M. Baitinger and C. A. Tesch were voted their orders as deacons and received into the itinerancy.

S. B. Goetz, W. A. Juedes, C. W. Wolthausen and F. R. Wolter were advanced to the order of elders.

H. E. Linse, J. G. Simon, F. R. Plantikow, A. Knebel and C. W. Sydow were elected as delegates to the next General Conference.

H. E. Linse was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

H. E. Linse's term as Presiding Elder having expired, he was elected again for the same office.

G. Husser and W. J. Vetter had credentials voted them to the Illinois Conference.

Boundaries

The Presiding Elders found that they had to make quite a number of changes in the construction of the fields.

Rochester Mission was discontinued and Rochester was united with Hamilton, and Greenwood with Frontenac charge.

Benekes and Heitz's were taken from Hamilton and added to Kasson.

Rush City Mission was absorbed by Maple Grove Circuit.

St. Cloud and South Haven Missions were to be served together.

Chaska Mission was transferred from Minneapolis to St. Paul District.

Elmore was transferred from Blue Earth Circuit to Blue Earth City Mission.

Pine Street Church Transfer

On account of the church trouble, a number of the members of Pine Street Church, in St. Paul, who sympathized with the minority, sought to get possession of the church property. They sold the church and parsonage for ten dollars, with the object of securing it through a fake sale, for the minority faction. Our conference trustees took the matter into court, which annulled the sale and returned the property to the rightful owners. It is due to

the Pine Street congregation, to say that many of them did not approve of such actions, but were true and loyal to the Evangelical Association.

The Stationing

On Monday forenoon, just before adjournment for dinner, the Bishop read the long delayed appointments. The East Prairie people were especially eager to know who their new minister would be, since their old one was going to Illinois.

St. Paul District—H. E. Linse, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, L. S. Stapf
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Spaeth
Dakota and Farmington, J. Graeben
East Prairie, J. L. Stegner
Faribault, C. F. Kachel
Kasson, F. F. Arndt
Hamilton, F. Moede
Preston, E. J. Hielscher
Mound Prairie, G. A. Lippert
St. Charles, A. Huelster
Winona, G. Duebendorf
Frontenac, C. A. Tesch
Waseca, A. Knebel
Chaska, F. Schild

Minneapolis District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Isker
Minneapolis, Highland Park, J. M. Baitinger
Maple Grove, R. M. Mueller
Crow River, J. Kienholz
Arlington, F. R. Wolter
Hutchinson, H. Hensel
Paynesville, A. C. Schmidt
Zion, J. Manthey
St. Cloud and South Haven, H. Bunse and E. H. Bollenbach
Royalton, H. Plantikow
Brainerd, A. H. Utzinger
Wadena, G. H. Siebold and A. T. Ehlert
Elizabeth, W. A. Juedes
Alexandria, C. F. Sydow
Odessa, W. Lenz
Appleton, H. A. Seder

Mankato District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

Mankato and Amboy, A. Reeck and F. H. Draeger
Blue Earth, J. Gongoll
Blue Earth City, M. Gagstetter
Wells, C. W. Sydow and J. J. Boelter
Le Sueur, B. Simon
Le Sueur Center, A. J. Iwan
New Ulm, O. Schulz
Sleepy Eye, L. Passer
Renville, A. G. Sahr
Lamberton, G. H. Schaefer
Fairmont, G. Britzius
Worthington, S. B. Goetz
Luverne, F. C. Schmidt
Pipestone, A. Zabel

Surplus

What seldom, if ever, happens, occurred at this session. The Stationing Committee had more ministers than they could use, therefore they advised five young men to apply for work in the Dakota Conference. Thereupon A. F. Herzberg, G. Reckow, Emmet Helmer, and G. J. Beck offered their services and were accepted by the Dakota Conference.

1891

Worship

L. S. Stapf preached on Tuesday evening, B. Simon on Wednesday, H. Mattill on Thursday, Bishop Bowman on Friday, and President J. H. Kiekhoefer on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the bishop preached a powerful ordination sermon on Acts 20: 28 to a crowded church. In the afternoon he ordained eight young men to deacons and elders. The bishop also conducted the missionary services, securing $1500.00 for this sacred cause. In the evening Dr. Kiekhoefer gave us another able sermon. On Monday morning the Lord's Supper was celebrated. During this time the hearts were melted together in Christian love and fellowship.

On Monday, toward evening, the conference finished its business and adjourned. Some ministers went home with light hearts, while others had to ask God to help them brace up.

How They Succeeded—1891-1892

Again we follow the ministers to their fields to see how they succeeded. For some reason they did not win so many souls for Christ as often in former years. In all there were 308 conversions and 288 new members received. Worthington had 21 conversions, Winifred Street 20, Waseca 20, Crow River 17, Royalton 14, Odessa 17, Dakota and Farmington 15, Highland Park 14, New Ulm 13, Sleepy Eye 12, Faribault 10, Zion 11 and Blue Earth Circuit 10. Nearly all the ministers had some success. The three strongest charges in the conference were Wells Circuit with 295 members, Odessa Circuit with 277, and Zion Circuit with 272. There were 20 self-supporting fields.

It appears from the statistics that there were six new churches built. There were new churches reported from Bellingham, Bismark, Worthington, Welcome, Deer Creek and Otter Tail. The last two were not finished nor dedicated until in July of the next conference year.

Twenty-Fifth Session, 1892

The Minnesota Conference had existed a quarter of a century and had grown to respectable proportions. The favor of God rested upon it.

Most of the ministers had to use Jim Hill's accommodation train to get to Mayer, where the conference was to meet. After the examination of the junior preachers, and several preliminary

meetings, the conference was called to order by Bishop W. Horn on Thursday morning, May 5, 1892. Mayer is a small village, but has a good, substantial Evangelical church and parsonage. J. Kienholz was host to the conference and assigned the ministers to the various homes. It was the first time that Bishop Horn presided over this conference, but not the last. He was an upright, righteous man, who usually formed a correct judgment of men. He could not be bought by flattery, nor frightened by threats. We learned to love and respect him. He was ill part of the time during this session, so that he had to rest some of the time. In his absence H. E. Linse presided.

In his opening address he said that if we followed the excellent directions of our Discipline the favor of God would certainly rest upon us. The work of the minister is very important, for he is engaged in saving blood-bought souls, which interests even the angels. All real success comes from God.

The bishop appointed H. Isker as secretary, who chose J. Graeben, G. Duebendorf and H. Plantikow as his assistants.

Revising the Lists

Aug. Knebel had gone to his eternal reward during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed, and a touching memorial service was held on Saturday morning, at which H. E. Linse spoke on: The Character of the Deceased, and J. G. Simon on: The Work of Brother Knebel. Brother Simon and the departed were licensed at the same time, and later ordained together.

F. G. Sahr, F. W. Tesch and W. Blanchard returned from the Dakota Conference and were received into this conference after they had labored in the former for nine years.

John H. Muehlhausen, of Rush River, Samuel R. Iwig, of East Prairie, and Ernst Melzian were licensed.

A. Reeck, G. H. Schaefer, F. Schild and H. Plantikow were advanced to the order of elder.

A. Zabel and F. H. Draeger were voted their orders as deacon and received into the itinerancy.

J. G. Simon had been Presiding Elder for four years, but he was re-elected for another term. It was necessary to shift the Presiding Elders, for Brother Simon had been on Mankato District four years, so he was stationed on St. Paul District now, and H. E. Linse on Mankato, while Plantikow remained on Minneapolis District. Linse had considerable property interests in St. Paul,

and desired to live there, which the conference allowed him for one year, but, for some reason or other, he resigned his office as Presiding Elder. C. W. Sydow was then elected in his stead.

J. G. Simon was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Church Extension Board

The conference elected the three Presiding Elders, E. J. Hielscher and A. Huelster a Building Committee, and ordered them to draw plans for a church Extension Board and report to the next session. This committee reported Rules for such a board, containing ten articles. Since the creation of said board, the reports of the building of churches and parsonages have been quite complete. It will be easier after this to discover when and where such buildings were erected. The first members of this board were the Presiding Elders Simon, Plantikow and Sydow, and H. E. Linse, E. J. Hielscher, A. Huelster, H. Bunse and G. Duebendorf. The board organized itself by electing H. E. Linse, President, J. G. Simon, Vice-President, E. J. Hielscher, Secretary, and F. R. Plantikow, Treasurer.

This board, as it was constituted from time to time, has materially assisted in building good, appropriate churches and parsonages.

The Fields

Some changes were again adopted.

Rochester and Pleasant Grove were taken from Hamilton Circuit and called Rochester Mission. Sargent and Benekes were added to Hamilton, and the name changed to Racine Circuit.

Mankato, St. Clair, Little Cobb and Bittners were constituted the Mankato Mission.

Amboy, Schwankes and St. James were formed into Amboy Mission.

The name of New Ulm Circuit was changed to Courtland.

Appointments

Near the close of the Saturday afternoon session the bishop was ready to read the appointments. All were eager to hear them, excepting the Presiding Elders, who knew them already.

1892

St. Paul District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, L. S. Stapf
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Spaeth
East Prairie, J. L. Stegner
Dakota, J. Graeben
Kasson, F. F. Arndt
Rochester, E. J. Hielscher
Racine, S. B. Goetz
Preston, F. C. Schmidt
Faribault, C. F. Kachel
St. Charles, A. Huelster
Chaska, F. Schild
Waseca, F. Moede and supply
Frontenac, C. A. Tesch
Winona, G. Duebendorf
Mound Prairie, G. A. Lippert

Minneapolis District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Isker
Minneapolis, Highland Park, F. G. Sahr
Maple Grove, R. M. Mueller
Crow River, C. F. Sydow
Arlington, W. Lenz
Hutchinson, H. Hensel
Paynesville, H. Bunse
Zion, J. Manthey
St. Cloud, J. Kienholz and supply
Royalton, H. Plantikow
Brainerd, J. M. Baitinger
Wadena, A. H. Utzinger and J. J. Boelter
Elizabeth, W. A. Juedes
Alexandria, A. T. Ehlert
Odessa, G. H. Siebold
Appleton, H. A. Seder

Mankato District—C. W. Sydow, P. E.

Mankato, F. W. Tesch
Amboy, E. H. Bollenbach
Blue Earth, J. Gongoll
Blue Earth City, M. Gagstetter
Wells, G. Britzius and S. R. Iwig
Le Sueur, B. Simon
Le Sueur Center, A. J. Iwan
Courtland, O. Schulz
Sleepy Eye, L. Passer
Renville, A. G. Sahr
Lamberton, G. H. Schaefer
Fairmont, A. Reeck
Worthington, F. H. Draeger
Luverne, C. W. Wolthausen
Pipestone, A. Zabel
Marshall, W. Blanchard

Religious Services

O. Schulz preached on Tuesday evening, L. Passer on Wednesday, G. W. Hielscher on Thursday, Bishop Horn gave a lecture on our Mission Work on Friday, and T. C. Meckel preached on Saturday evening. It is a treat for us ministers to have the privilege to hear some one else preach, after we have heard ourselves all the year. Bishop Horn preached an instructive ordination sermon on Sunday forenoon. In the afternoon he ordained the six brethren who had their orders voted. T. C. Meckel led the missionary meeting, at which $1738.27 were secured for this cause. In the evening H. Mattill conducted the sacred communion services. Thus ended another important session. Only eternity can reveal the full influence of these conference meets.

How They Worked—1892-1893

The minister's calling is certainly no easy snap if he wants to do his duty. From early morning till late at night he can be

busy. While others may be softly dozing away, he may be up burning midnight oil, studying his sermons, and praying for his congregations.

There was an increase in conversions over the last year, there being 441. New members 450 were received, which increased the total number to 6105. A great awakening took place on Odessa Circuit, where G. H. Siebold was the pastor. By the score they were convicted and gloriously saved until the whole number was 73, and 63 joined the church. How the hosts of God must have prayed; what power of the Spirit been manifested, and what shouts of joy ascended to God, as those seekers were wrestling with God for pardon, when their hearts were filled with the glory of God, and their faces shone with the radiance of heaven. No wonder the people could not remain away from those meetings, and thought it no hardship to remain in church until midnight. S. B. Goetz reported 28 conversions and 22 accessions from Racine Circuit, and J. M. Baitinger 33 and 23 from Brainerd Mission. J. Graeben had 23 conversions on Dakota charge, J. Manthey 22 on Zion, M. Gagstetter 20 on Blue Earth City, Britzius and Iwig 17 on Wells, L. Passer 15 on Sleepy Eye, C. W. Wolthausen 15 on Luverne, J. Kienholz 14 on St. Cloud, Utzinger and Boelter 13 on Wadena, H. Hensel 13 on Hutchinson, and C. F. Kachel 11 on Faribault charge.

Four churches were built during the year: one in Paynesville, H. Bunse, pastor, which cost $2909.54; another in Cherry Grove, F. C. Schmidt, pastor, costing $2400; a third at Graham, Royalton Mission, under supervision of H. Plantikow, which cost $945; and the fourth in Wells, where G. Britzius was in charge, costing $2350.

Three parsonages were reported: one from Le Sueur, under the supervision of B. Simon, costing $1450; a second in Blue Earth City, M. Gagstetter, pastor, at an expense of $2265, and the third on Arlington Mission (Winthrop), which was bought at a cost of $1332. W. Lenz supervised the last project. This gives the people of this generation an idea of the cost of good, substantial churches and parsonages twenty-five years ago. They served the purposes of those times well.

The Annual Meet, 1893

On Thursday morning, May 4, 1893, the conference met in annual session in Zion's Church, on Zion's Circuit, under the chair-

manship of Bishop Bowman. It was the second time, he having held one session there in 1882. After blessed devotional exercises and a practical opening address, he appointed H. Isker again as secretary. He chose J. Graeben, G. Duebendorf and H. Plantikow as his assistants.

The Personnel

It was announced that A. Strohmeier had died shortly after the last conference session. Suitable resolutions were adopted, and on Saturday morning a memorial service was held, at which E. J. Hielscher spoke on: "The Deceased as a Preacher, Christian, Husband and Father." The bishop spoke on the "Life and Work" of the departed. The conference choir sang two appropriate hymns. Another great man in Israel had fallen. His name is intimately linked with the early history of our conference.

After serving but one year in the conference at this time, W. Blanchard asked for credentials to the Dakota Conference. G. A. Lippert took credentials for the Illinois Conference.

Moses Schoenleben, Thomas Koch, F. William Siebel and William Georgius were licensed to preach.

E. H. Bollenbach and J. J. Boelter were voted their orders as deacons and received into the itinerancy.

J. M. Baitinger, A. H. Utzinger, C. A. Tesch and G. A. Lippert were advanced to the order of elders.

H. E. Linse was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Boundaries

A new mission was created, called West Seventh Street, St. Paul, Mission.

Greenwood Prairie was taken from Frontenac and added to Rochester Mission.

Kenyon was taken up as appointment and added to East Prairie Circuit.

South St. Paul and Farmington Missions were discontinued.

Duluth was constituted a mission.

Paynesville Mission was advanced to a circuit.

Blue Earth City Mission was advanced to a station.

Morton and Echo were taken up as appointments and added to Renville Circuit.

1893

Whom the Fields Received

On Sunday evening, after the devotional services, the bishop read the appointments.

St. Paul District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, L. S. Stapf
St. Paul, Winifred Street, H. E. Linse
St. Paul, West Seventh Street, J. L. Stegner
East Prairie, F. G. Sahr
Dakota, W. A. Juedes
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, E. J. Hielscher
Racine, S. B. Geotz
Preston, F. C. Schmidt
Faribault, C. F. Kachel
St. Charles, J. Graeben
Chaska, J. J. Boelter
Waseca, F. Moede and E. Melzian
Frontenac, C. A. Tesch
Winona, G. Spaeth
Mound Prairie, F. F. Arndt

Minneapolis District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, H. Isker
Minneapolis, Highland Park, G. Duebendorf
Maple Grove, R. M. Mueller
Winthrop, W. Lenz
Hutchinson, H. Hensel
Paynesville, H. Bunse
Zion, J. Manthey
St. Cloud, J. Kienholz
Royalton, H. Plantikow
Brainerd, J. M. Baitinger
Duluth, to supply
Wadena, A. H. Utzinger and Thomas Koch
Elizabeth, F. Schild
Alexandria, A. T. Ehlert
Odessa, G. H. Siebold
Appleton, H. A. Seder
Crow River, C. F. Sydow

Mankato District—C. W. Sydow, P. E.

Mankato, F. W. Tesch
Amboy, J. H. Muehlhausen
Blue Earth, J. Gongoll
Blue Earth City, M. Gagstetter
Wells, G. Britzius and F. W. Siebel
Le Sueur, B. Simon
Le Sueur Center, A. J. Iwan
Sleepy Eye, L. Passer
Renville, A. G. Sahr
Lamberton, G. H. Schaefer
Fairmont, A. Reeck
Worthington, F. H. Draeger
Luverne, C. W. Wolthausen
Pipestone, E. H. Bollenbach
Marshall, A. Zabel
Courtland, O. Schulz

Caring for the Soul

During a conference session the people come out well to hear new ministers preach. At Zion and a few nearby societies there lived many Evangelical people. It was easy for them to fill up the church, which is not very large. On Tuesday evening F. W. Tesch preached, on Wednesday S. B. Goetz, on Thursday C. Oertli. On Friday evening there was a Young People's Rally, at which Bishop Bowman and T. C. Meckel spoke. On Saturday evening T. C. Meckel dispensed the Gospel.

The Sunday morning services began with a testimony meeting, after which the bishop preached a powerful ordination sermon

on James 5: 19, 20. In the afternoon he ordained the respective candidates for ordination. It was a blessed service for us. Then T. C. Meckel led the missionary service in his unique way, and secured $1720 for the cause of missions. In the evening Brother Mattill gave us another choice sermon on 1 Cor. 15: 58.

During the Year, 1893-1894

There was no field without conversions, excepting one new mission. Odessa again bore away the banner in the number of conversions. The revival fires kindled during the previous year continued burning, and the Lord gave Brother Siebold 52 souls more and 35 to the church. A. Huelster had a harvest of 36 precious souls and received 32 into the church. A. G. Sahr and W. Georgius had great awakenings on Renville Circuit, resulting in 40 conversions and 48 accessions. Such numbers count for the future existence of a field. S. B. Goetz reported 29 regenerations and 32 new members from Racine Mission. Brother Wolthausen rejoiced over 29 converts and 23 new members on Luverne Mission. G. H. Schaefer secured 24 souls for Christ and the church on Lamberton Circuit. L. Passer brought 20 souls unto the Lord and into the church on Sleepy Eye Mission. The Lord gave Brother Schild 25 souls for his hire and 15 for the church on Elizabeth Mission. On Winthrop Mission W. Lenz secured 20 conversions and 18 new members. G. Spaeth led 21 souls to Christ and into the church in Winona. Rochester Mission was quickened by 24 conversions and 17 accessions under the labors of father Hielscher.

Other charges had success, as will be seen by the following figures: St. Paul, Pine Street, L. S. Stapf, pastor, 15 conversions; Dakota, W. A. Juedes, 13; Faribault, C. F. Kachel, 14; Mound Prairie, F. F. Arndt, 12; Crow River, C. F. Sydow, 10; Zion, J. Manthey, 10; Wadena, Utzinger and Koch, 15; Blue Earth City, 12; Le Sueur, B. Simon, 10; Courtland, O. Schulz, 18; Marshall, A. Zabel, pastor, 16.

The total number of conversions was 605, and of new members 540. There was a net gain of 248 members, bringing the total membership up to 6353.

There was some activity in the line of building. A. Reeck had a new church erected south of Jackson in the Eggestein neighborhood. In Alexandria an old church was bought of the Congregationalists and moved on the same lot with the parsonage.

1894

On Odessa Circuit the Salem's Church was built in place of the one burnt down the winter before. Brother Siebold supervised the job. East of Worthington the Bethel Church was bought. Extensive improvements were made on the Brainerd Church amounting to $616.70.

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION, 1894

In the lovely spring-time the ministers directed their steps to the Pleasant Corners, on Kasson Circuit, to meet in annual session. Sunshine and rain greeted us there, the same as at other corners. The church stands in the midst of a rich farming district. The conference met on Thursday, May 3, 1894. Bishop Bowman was present again and occupied the chair. His opening services never deteriorated, but were always spiritual and uplifting. His opening address was characteristic of the man—bubbling over with precious truths, forceful and to the point.

H. Isker, as chief secretary, and G. Duebendorf, J. Graeben and H. Plantikow did the clerical work of the conference. All of them were fine scribes.

Among the Ranks

The Lord called none of the workmen home during the year. Brother Boelter could not attend the session on account of sickness.

Frederick Haueter, Reinhold C. Mittelstadt and Jacob von Eschen were licensed as preachers. The last never entered the active work.

Wm. Knopp was advanced to the order of deacon. F. H. Draeger, A. T. Ehlert and A. Zabel were promoted to the order of elder.

J. G. Simon was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

F. R. Plantikow's term as Presiding Elder had expired. He was re-elected, but for some reason resigned, when G. Spaeth was elected in his place.

North-Western College

For years the agents of North-Western College of Naperville, Illinois, an educational institution of our church, belonging to a compact of conferences, endeavored to interest the Minnesota Conference sufficiently to induce it to join the other conferences. This action was deferred from time to time. At this session J. H. Yaggy, the treasurer and agent of the college, presented the claims

of the institution so convincingly, that the conference adopted the resolution by which it became a member of the college compact. At the same time it also joined the Biblical Institute (now Evangelical Seminary) compact. Following are the resolutions:

"It gives us great pleasure to have in our midst J. H. Yaggy, agent of North-Western College and Union Biblical Institute, of Naperville, Illinois, and with delight have we listened to his interesting address.

Be it resolved,

1. That we greatly rejoice over the visible success of said institutions of learning, and we hereby voice our pleasure, caused by the fact that we are now a member of the compact which owns these institutions.

We shall strive to show more diligence in promoting the interests of these schools. We advise all our members, who desire to acquire a higher education, to remember that *our* schools are the best for them, and assure all Evangelical parents that their sons and daughters who attend said institutions are under the very best Christian influence.

2. That we will annually take an offering in all of our churches for these educational institutions."

F. R. Plantikow was elected a member of the Board of Trustees for said schools for a term of three years.

One condition we made was, that these institutions should send no agent into the bounds of our conference to solicit funds for a period of three years.

Echo Park

A number of ministers of our conference, notably those of the twin cities, had interested themselves in forming a camp meeting association. They organized and incorporated and bought 40 acres of land some distance out of St. Paul, and improved the place, so it was fit for holding camp meetings. They called it Echo Park. For two or more seasons meetings were held there, but it was inconvenient for the city people to get there, and the attendance was not what was expected. Shares had been sold at $25 each. The price of the land dropped, the expenses were considerable, and many could not be interested enough in the project to support it financially.

Finally the leaders thought it best to liquidate the debts and drop the project.

1894

Boundaries

Winona was divided into two missions, one called East 4th Street, and the other West King Street.

South Haven and Steinbergs, of St. Cloud Mission, and Eden Valley of Paynesville, were constituted a South Haven Mission.

Bellingham was transferred from Odessa to Appleton charge.

Olivia and Salem were detached from Renville Circuit and called Olivia Mission. Renville was called Redwood Circuit.

Le Sueur Center was transferred from Mankato to St. Paul District.

Where They Went

The Stationing Committee had some hard problems to solve and, therefore, were not ready to report until Sunday evening after the services. Bishop Bowman then read their report as follows:

St. Paul District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, H. Plantikow
St. Paul, Winifred Street, R. M. Mueller
St. Paul, West Seventh Street, Wm. Knopp
East Prairie, F. G. Sahr
Le Sueur Center, F. Moede
Dakota, W. A. Juedes
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, E. J. Hielscher
Racine, S. B. Goetz
Preston, F. C. Schmidt
Faribault, H. Isker
St. Charles, J. Graeben
Chaska, J. L. Stegner
Waseca, L. Passer
Frontenac, F. R. Wolter
Winona, West King Street, B. Simon
Winona, East 4th Street, F. Haueter
Mound Prairie, F. F. Arndt

Minneapolis District—G. Spaeth, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, C. F. Kachel
Minneapolis, Highland Park, G. Duebendorf
Maple Grove, H. A. Seder
Winthrop, W. Lenz
Hutchinson, J. Manthey
Crow River, C. F. Sydow
Paynesville, H. Bunse
South Haven, Thos. Koch
Zion, H. E. Linse
St. Cloud, J. Kienholz
Royalton, C. A. Tesch
Brainerd, L. S. Stapf
Duluth, J. M. Baitinger
Wadena, A. H. Utzinger and Wm. Georgius
Elizabeth, F. Schild
Alexandria, A. T. Ehlert
Odessa, G. H. Siebold
Appleton, H. Hensel

Mankato District—C. W. Sydow, P. E.

Mankato, A. J. Iwan
Blue Earth, F. W. Tesch
Blue Earth City, F. R. Plantikow
Amboy, F. W. Siebel
Wells, M. Gagstetter and J. H. Muehlhausen
Le Sueur, J. Gongoll
Courtland, G. H. Schaefer
Sleepy Eye, A. G. Sahr
Redwood and Olivia, O. Schulz and R. C. Mittelstadt
Lamberton, G. Britzius
Fairmont, A .Reeck
Worthington, F. H. Draeger
Luverne, C. W. Wolthausen
Pipestone, E. H. Bollenbach
Marshall, A. Zabel

1894

Devotional

On Tuesday evening H. Isker preached, on Wednesday evening H. Hensel, on Thursday evening J. C. Hornberger, editor of the English Sunday-school literature, on Friday evening Bishop Bowman, and on Saturday evening W. Yost. All of these men delivered excellent sermons.

On Sunday the people came from all directions, and soon crowded the spacious church. Bishop Bowman was at his best, and fed them the Word of God until they were well satisfied. He preached on 2 Cor. 3: 7-9 in the forenoon. In the afternoon he ordained those who were entitled to it. After this he conducted the missionary meeting. The Sunday was closed with a blessed service, in which H. Mattill dispensed the Word. On Monday morning holy communion was celebrated. The Master was present among the brethren. How precious the Christian religion is at such times!

On Monday forenoon the business was finished, and the ministers left Pleasant Corners to take up the work of the new year. Thirty of them went to fields, which were new to them at that time. God went with his servants.

Busy at Work, 1894-1895

Fifty-eight ministers worked hard all year, securing 521 conversions, and gaining 481 for the church. Many of these remained faithful and were a help to the church, while others relapsed into sin, and became a drag on the work. The total membership had climbed up to 6541. Many blessed revival meetings were held; the results of some of them follow.

We begin with Zion Circuit, where J. Gongoll finished the year; 28 souls were saved and 27 received into the church. On Wadena Mission Utzinger and Groenig had 27 converts and received 23 new members. Gagstetter and Muehlhausen secured 24 regenerations and 26 accessions on Wells Circuit. On Luverne Mission C. W. Wolthausen had 20 conversions and accessions. F. Wolter could rejoice over 21 conversions and 27 accessions on Frontenac Mission, and L. Passer had 20 converts and received 14 into the church on Waseca Circuit. Less in number, but important in the plan of salvation were other reports, as, for instance: R. M. Mueller secured 15 conversions on Winifred Street Station; F. G. Sahr 19 on East Prairie charge; A. Huelster 12 on Kasson;

F. C. Schmidt 16 on Preston; B. Simon 13 on Winona; C. F. Sydow 16 on Crow River; Thos. Koch 18 on South Haven; C. A. Tesch 18 on Royalton; J. M. Baitinger 14 on Duluth; R. C. Mittelstadt 12 on Olivia; G. Britzius 17 on Lamberton charge. Others had a less number of conversions, but, probably, had more success in other lines.

There was not much activity in the line of building. One new church was built at Sumner Center, under the supervision of S. B. Goetz, and another at Virginia, on Luverne Mission, under the pastorate of Brother Wolthausen. A new parsonage was built beside the church in West Winona, under the direction of B. Simon.

Twenty-Eighth Session, 1895

After having completed another year of hard labor, of wrestling with God in prayer, of contentions with worldly members, of rejoicing over new-born souls, and after having collected the necessary moneys, and made out the various reports, the ministers packed their grips and hastened to Racine, Minn., to meet in annual session. They had met there fifteen years previously. A new face greeted them in the chair. The genial Bishop S. C. Breyfogel, who was serving his first term as bishop, presided over our conference for the first time. Here it was also, as will be remembered, that Bishop Bowman made the acquaintance of the Minnesota Conference. The Bishop called the conference to order at 8:30 A. M., May 2, 1895. After the devotional exercises he gave his opening address, in which he compared the conference session with the home, where brotherly love, self-examination and mutual attachment should prevail. It should be a Pentecost for all.

A new secretary was appointed, namely, G. Duebendorf. He chose O. Schulz, H. Plantikow and A. H. Utzinger as his assistants.

G. Heinmiller, T. C. Meckel and H. Mattill were received as advisory members.

Among the Ranks

G. W. Hielscher returned from Dakota, where he had labored faithfully for over 12 years, and was gladly received again into our conference.

J. G. Beck gave up his license as preacher.

C. G. Roesti and Gustave Kowalke were licensed to preach, and David Groenig and George Koch were received as ministers on probation.

1895

M. Schoenleben was received as deacon and also received into the itinerancy.

E. H. Bollenbach was advanced to the order of elder.

F. Haueter, F. W. Siebel, J. H. Muehlhausen, Thos. Koch and W. Georgius were voted their orders as deacons, the last on condition that he pass his examinations.

F. W. Siebel, F. Haueter, J. H. Muehlhausen and Thos. Koch were received into the itinerancy.

J. C. Siebold was reported as having moved into the bounds of this conference.

J. G. Simon was sent as delegate to the Board of Missions.

The General Conference was to meet the next fall, and as delegates to it were elected: C. W. Sydow, F. R. Plantikow, G. Spaeth, J. G. Simon and E. J. Hielscher.

H. E. Linse

One of the saddest cases in the history of our conference was that of H. E. Linse. He was one of the pioneer preachers. He had made many a sacrifice and done much to build up the work. He had a strong administrative talent. He was the leader in the conference for a number of years and stood high in the general councils of the church. Even the bishops respected him highly. He was very hospitable and had many opportunities to practice it while living in St. Paul. In connection with his ministerial work, he speculated in city real estate. For a time he made money by buying lots and selling them again at a profit. His success in this line led him to venture farther, and he borrowed money with which to carry on his speculation, intending to pay it back when due. He showed an interest in the welfare of his brethren in the ministry and induced some of them to invest in St. Paul lots for the purpose of financial gain. For a time all went well, but, after a few years, the great real estate boom collapsed, and the price of lots dropped so low that those who were forced to sell had to do so at a great sacrifice. Together with others, Linse was caught in the panic. He could not sell his lots to raise money to pay his creditors. Finally he was forced into bankruptcy with $24,000 of unsecured debts. The conference investigated his case and located him, but later he was expelled from the church. Then he left Minnesota and moved to Yakima, Washington.

This case put a stop to speculation among the ministers of our conference for a while, and was also a warning to the laity. It was quite generally believed that Linse had no dishonest intentions, and that he would have paid his debts if he could. His misfortune was that he could not foresee the coming of the explosion of the boom in St. Paul, and he could not get his ship into the harbor before the storm broke loose, and thus sustained shipwreck.

Boundaries

Only a few changes which are worth mentioning were made. Bellingham and Madison were taken from Appleton Mission and constituted a Bellingham Mission.

Deer Creek, Otter Tail, Marquards, Bohnes and Hahns were taken from Wadena Mission and called Deer Creek Mission.

Rush City, Streichs, Hillers and Breuer were detached from Maple Grove Circuit and called Rush City Mission.

Appointments

On Sunday evening, after the sermon, the bishop read the appointments to the expectant congregation and ministers.

St. Paul District—J. G. Simon, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, H. Plantikow
St. Paul, Winifred Street, R. M. Mueller
St. Paul, West 7th Street and Chaska, F. W. Siebel
East Prairie, F. G. Sahr
Le Sueur Center, H. Ohs
Dakota, F. Moede
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, A. Reeck
Racine, A. Zabel
Preston, S. B. Goetz
Faribault, H. Isker
St. Charles, F. C. Schmidt
Waseca, L. Passer and S. R. Iwig
Frontenac, F. R. Wolter
Winona, West King, B. Simon
Winona, East Fourth, M. Schoenleben
Mound Prairie, F. F. Arndt

Minneapolis District—G. Spaeth, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Ave., C. F. Kachel
Minneapolis, Highland Park, G. Duebendorf
Maple Grove and Rush City, H. A. Seder
Winthrop, J. Kienholz
Hutchinson, J. Manthey
Crow River, H. Bunse
South Haven, Thos. Koch
Paynesville, G. H. Siebold
Zion, J. Gongoll
St. Cloud, E. J. Hielscher
Royalton, C. A. Tesch
Brainerd, L. S. Stapf
Duluth, J. M. Baitinger
Wadena, G. W. Hielscher
Otter Tail, D. Groenig
Elizabeth, F. Schild
Alexandria, A. H. Utzinger
Odessa, C. F. Sydow
Appleton, H. Hensel
Bellingham, F. Haueter

Mankato District—C. W. Sydow, P. E.

Mankato, A. J. Iwan
Blue Earth, F. W. Tesch
Blue Earth City, F. R. Plantikow
Amboy, W. A. Juedes

1895

Wells, M. Gagstetter and J. H. Muehlhausen
Le Sueur, W. Lenz
Courtland, G. H. Schaefer
Sleepy Eye, A. G. Sahr
Renville, O. Schulz
Olivia, R. C. Mittelstadt
Lamberton, G. Britzius
Fairmont, J. Graeben
Worthington, C. W. Wolthausen
Luverne, E. H. Bollenbach and Geo. Koch
Pipestone, A. T. Ehlert
Marshall, F. H. Draeger and G. H. Kowalke

Worship

Evening after evening the Salem's Church near Racine was filled with attentive listeners. On Monday evening R. M. Mueller preached; on Tuesday evening C. F. Kachel; on Thursday G. Heinmiller; on Friday Bishop Breyfogel, in the English language; on Saturday H. Mattill. On Sunday forenoon the Bishop preached an unctuous ordination sermon. In the afternoon he ordained a number of young ministers, at which the presence of the Holy Ghost was felt. Then T. C. Meckel led a successful missionary meeting, at which $1700 was secured for the work on missions. In the evening G. W. Hielscher delivered us a good sermon. On Monday evening C. W. Sydow preached the closing sermon.

The conference did not conclude its business until five o'clock on Monday afternoon. Thus most of the ministers were necessitated to remain until the next day, when they hastened away, each for the place assigned him by God and the church.

Out Into the Harvest Field, 1895-1896

The number of conversions in the whole conference had decreased to 383, and of accessions to 366. Only one field reported remarkable success, and that was Preston, where S. B. Goetz was pastor, namely, 50 conversions and 46 accessions. On Blue Earth Circuit, F. W. Tesch had 27 regenerations and 26 accessions. A. Zabel led 25 souls to Christ, and received 30 into the church. A. Huelster was rewarded on Kasson Circuit with 21 regenerations and 20 new members. Passer and Iwig had 11 conversions on Waseca charge; R. M. Mueller 19 on Winifred Street; F. W. Siebel 10 on Le Sueur Center; C. F. Sydow 12 on Odessa; F. Schild 14 on Elizabeth; J. Kienholz 10 on Winthrop; F. Haueter 14 on Bellingham; Gagstetter and Muehlhausen 17 on Wells; G. Britzius 19 on Lamberton.

Four new churches were erected: one at Fairfield, under the supervision of H. Hensel; another at the Flats, on Elizabeth Mis-

sion; a third at Eden Valley, and the fourth at Blue Earth City, where the brethren Schild, Siebold and F. R. Plantikow, respectively, had charge of the building operations. At Blue Earth City the old church had been partly destroyed by fire. A new site was secured and a large, modern church erected at a cost of $6400.

At Olivia R. C. Mittelstadt had a good parsonage built at a cost of $1400.

Annual Session, 1896

In the beautiful spring time the ministers journeyed to the south-western corner of the state, to Rock County, which is noted for its fertility, to greet each other and meet in annual session. Ebenezer Church is nine miles south-west of Luverne and five miles from Beaver Creek. E. H. Bollenbach, the local pastor, saw to it that the ministers were conveyed from the station to the church, or to their quarters. Bishop Wm. Horn was present as chairman. He opened the session Thursday morning, May 7, 1896, with religious exercises and addressed the conference on the duties of ministers and their conduct at the annual sessions.

He appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary again, who chose G. W. Hielscher, R. M. Mueller and M. Schoenleben as assistants. Later J. Graeben took Brother Hielscher's place.

The Personnel

H. Ohs had withdrawn from the church during the year and joined the United Evangelical Church.

Thos. Koch had been expelled.

F. Schild asked for his credentials and moved to California.

E. Helmer and G. Hoff returned from Dakota to take work in our conference.

Christian C. Engelbart and Frederick P. Werner were licensed to preach.

R. C. Mittelstadt and S. R. Iwig were advanced to the order of deacon and received into the itinerancy.

G. Spaeth was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

The terms of J. G. Simon and C. W. Sydow as presiding elders had expired. In their stead F. R. Plantikow and G. W. Hielscher were elected. Both of these men had previously served one term as Presiding Elder, the latter in the Dakota Conference.

1896

Mission Debt

A heavy mission debt had accumulated during a period of years, and it began to menace the activities of the church in general. The General Mission Board and the general officers of the church sounded the alarm in the church papers. At the last General Conference, in 1895, in Elgin, Ill., an appeal was made to the whole church to liquidate the debt, and keep up the usual contributions at the same time, so the missionary work of the church need not suffer. The members of the General Conference set a good example by subscribing heavily themselves towards the debt. T. C. Meckel, the Corresponding Secretary of the Parent Missionary Society, threw himself into the harness with all his might and so did other officers of the church. At the various conference sessions this matter was brought up and resolutions passed, calling on the members to do their best to help in this worthy enterprise. The ministers led the procession by pledging themselves for large amounts. Our conference lined up with the others at this session, after the matter had been presented by the bishop. The debt was really liquidated during the quadrennium.

Examining Board

The Examining Board always has to be on hand on Tuesday morning of the week of the conference session to examine the junior preachers who have not finished their course of study. The personnel of this board changes slightly from year to year. Some examiners serve many years, and others fewer. In 1896 the following ministers constituted it: E. J. Hielscher, President; J. Gongoll, Secretary; H. Bunse, G. Spaeth, F. R. Plantikow, J. G. Simon, J. Manthey, G. W. Hielscher, H. Isker, C. W. Sydow, A. H. Utzinger, G. Duebendorf, F. G. Sahr, H. Plantikow and J. Graeben.

Boundaries

A few changes were deemed advisable. Leroy, Sargent, Rockdell and Austin were formed into a new mission and called Austin Mission. It existed only a year and then was discontinued.

Montrose was transferred from Crow River to Maple Grove.

Chaska was united with Crow River.

Eden Valley was added to Paynesville and the remaining appointments of South Haven Mission were added to St. Cloud.

1896

Winthrop Mission was transferred from Minneapolis to Mankato District, and Olivia from Mankato to Minneapolis District.

Where the Workers Went

On Sunday evening, after the preaching service, Bishop Horn read the appointments.

St. Paul District—G. W. Hielscher P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. G. Simon
St. Paul, Winifred Street, R. M. Mueller
East Prairie, L. S. Stapf
Le Sueur Center, A. T. Ehlert
Dakota, A. J. Iwan
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, A. Reeck
Racine, A. Zabel
Preston, S. B. Goetz
Faribault, E. J. Hielscher
St. Charles, F. C. Schmidt
Waseca, C. W. Sydow
Frontenac, F. W. Siebel
Winona, West King Street, B. Simon
Winona, East 4th Street, M. Schoenleben
Mound Prairie, F. F. Arndt
Austin, F. R. Wolter

Minneapolis District, G. Spaeth, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Ave., C. F. Kachel
Minneapolis, Highland Park, G. Duebendorf
Maple Grove, H. A. Seder
Olivia, K. Meckel
Hutchinson, J. Manthey
Crow River, H. Bunse
Paynesville, G. H. Siebold
Zion, J. Gongoll
St. Cloud, F. G. Sahr
Royalton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Brainerd, J. H. Muehlhausen
Duluth, A. H. Utzinger
Wadena, J. M. Baitinger
Otter Tail, G. Hoff
Elizabeth, H. Hensel
Alexandria, C. A. Tesch
Odessa, C. F. Sydow
Appleton, G. H. Schaefer
Bellingham, F. Haueter
Rush City, E. Helmer

Mankato District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Mankato, H. Isker
Blue Earth, F. W. Tesch
Blue Earth City, H. Plantikow
Amboy, W. A. Juedes
Wells, M. Gagstetter and supply
Le Sueur, W. Lenz
Courtland, L. Passer
Sleepy Eye, A. G. Sahr
Renville, J. Kienholz
Winthrop, O. Schulz
Lamberton, G. Britzius
Fairmont, J. Graeben
Worthington, C. W. Wolthausen
Luverne, E. H. Bollenbach and S. R. Iwig
Pipestone, D. Groenig
Marshall, F. H. Draeger and C. C. Engelbart

Devotional Exercises

E. J. Hielscher preached on Tuesday evening; on Wednesday evening L. Passer, who served Luverne Mission from 1877 to '80; on Thursday evening J. Manthey, on Friday evening E. F. Movius, of Dakota, and on Saturday evening C. F. Sydow. These were

all well-experienced men. On Sunday morning, at 9:30, G. Spaeth led a consecration meeting, after which Bishop Horn preached a powerful ordination sermon on John 20: 21. In the afternoon he ordained R. C. Mittelstadt and S. R. Iwig. These were the only candidates for ordination that year. T. C. Meckel conducted the missionary meeting with much enthusiasm, securing $1500 for the cause of missions. In the evening the bishop delivered another masterful sermon. On Monday morning a communion service was held.

The business of the conference was not finished until Monday night at 10 o'clock. There was not much unusual business to transact, but somehow the time passed by, and the work was not completed until said hour. The next morning the ministers left for their homes. On the trains they still discussed conference matters, or commented on the excellent sermons. Those who had to move had already gotten the necessary information from their predecessors.

Working in the Field, 1896-1897

One of the striking facts of this year is, that there were thirteen charges on which there were no conversions. A great awakening occurred at Maple Grove, where H. A. Seder was pastor. He held a glorious meeting, which resulted in 44 conversions and 37 accessions. People prayed through into the kingdom of God. This revival was a great boon for our Maple Grove society, and its effects were felt for many years. G. Britzius had a number of good meetings on Lamberton Circuit, which netted 30 conversions and accessions. S. B. Goetz led 24 souls to accept Christ, and 18 to join the church on Preston Circuit. C. W. Sydow had 12 conversions on Waseca charge; L. S. Stapf 18 on East Prairie; E. J. Hielscher 18 on Faribault; A. Zabel 10 on Racine; B. Simon 15 in Winona; F. Wolter 10 on Austin charge; G. H. Siebold 15 on Paynesville; J. M. Baitinger 12 on Wadena; E. Helmer 10 on Rush City; Gagstetter and Iwig 12 on Wells; H. Plantikow 19 on Blue Earth City; L. Passer 13 on Courtland; Draeger and Engelbart 10 on Marshall; J. Graeben 12 on Fairmont.

The Salem's Church on Lamberton Circuit was built during the year, under the supervision of G. Britzius.

A church and parsonage in one building were erected in Duluth, under the supervision of A. H. Utzinger.

1897

At St. Cloud the parsonage, which had been damaged by fire, caused by careless boys, who set fire to the grass near by, was repaired and improved.

THIRTIETH SESSION, 1897

For the first time in its history the conference met in the city of Blue Earth, in the beautiful new Evangelical church. Bishop Bowman had arrived and called the conference to order at 8:30 A. M., May 6, 1897. He opened the session in his characteristic way.

Conference Choir

About in 1890 a conference octet was organized. It originally consisted of the brethren H. Isker, F. Schild, L. S. Stapf, S. B. Goetz, F. R. Wolter, H. Plantikow, O. Schulz and H. A. Seder. It experienced many changes in its personnel in the course of 25 years. They sang quite frequently at each conference session, and contributed much to the blessings thereof. The people were anxious to hear them. Their songs inspired the hearts of ministers and laity. They had appropriate songs for the opening of the sessions, for missionary meetings, memorial services, the closing of the conference, etc. Their songs made deep and lasting impressions. They also sang during the opening services of this session.

The chairman appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary again, who chose J. Graeben, R. M. Mueller, M. Schoeleben and H. Plantikow as his assistants.

In the Ranks

During the year three ministers' wives had been called to their reward. They were Sister Brill, widow of the sainted Rev. C. Brill, and Sister Yahn, wife of the aged veteran, G. Yahn, and Sister Sydow, wife of Rev. C. F. Sydow, at that time pastor on Odessa Circuit. Suitable resolutions were passed concerning them. It is not often so many ministers' wives die in one year. A good, faithful wife of a minister certainly earns a rich reward in the next world. They are not always appreciated enough in this world.

K. Meckel, of the California Conference, and A. Geyman, of the Illinois Conference, were received into this conference.

M. Schoenleben, F. W. Siebel and J. H. Muehlhausen were voted their orders as elder.

D. Groenig was advanced to the order of deacon.

1897

There were, to the great regret of the conference, no applicants for license.

G. Spaeth was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Changes in the Fields

The conference declared that Owatona should be taken up as an appointment and served with Waseca.

The name of the Frontenac Mission was changed to Hammond Mission.

Clara City was transferred from Appleton to Olivia Mission, and the latter constituted a circuit.

Steinkes and Elkton were changed from the Marshall to the Pipestone Mission.

Appointments

St. Paul District—G. W. Hielscher, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. G. Simon
St. Paul, Winifred Street, R. M. Mueller
East Prairie, L. S. Stapf
Dakota, A. J. Iwan
Kasson, G. Duebendorf
Rochester, A. Reeck
Racine, M. Schoenleben
Preston, A. Zabel
Faribault, E. J. Hielscher
St. Charles, F. C. Schmidt
Waseca, C. W. Sydow and C. C. Engelbart
Hammond, F. F. Arndt
Winona, West King Street, B. Simon
Winona, East 4th Street, J. J. Boelter
Mound Prairie, K. Meckel
Le Sueur Center, A. T. Ehlert

Minneapolis District—G. Spaeth P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Ave., C. F. Kachel
Minneapolis, Highland Park and Chaska, S. B. Goetz
Maple Grove, H. A. Seder
Olivia, A. Huelster
Hutchinson, J. Manthey
Crow River, H. Bunse
Paynesville, G. H. Siebold
Zion, J. Gongoll
St. Cloud, F. G. Sahr
Royalton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Brainerd, J. H. Muehlhausen
Wadena, J. M. Baitinger
Otter Tail, F. W. Siebel
Elizabeth, H. Hensel
Alexandria, C. A. Tesch
Odessa, C. F. Sydow
Appleton, G. H. Schaefer
Bellingham, A. Geyman
Rush City, E. Helmer
Duluth, A. H. Utzinger

Mankato District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Mankato, H. Isker
Blue Earth City, H. Plantikow
Blue Earth, F. W. Tesch
Amboy, W. A. Juedes
Wells, M. Gagstetter and S. R. Iwig
Le Sueur, L. Passer
Courtland, W. Lenz
Sleepy Eye, A. G. Sahr
Renville, J. Kienholz
Winthrop, O. Schulz
Lamberton, G. Britzius
Fairmont, J. Graeben
Worthington, C. W. Wolthausen
Luverne, E. H. Bollenbach
Pipestone, D. Groenig
Marshall, F. H. Draeger

1897

Worship

Again we were treated to the best in the line of sermons. On Tuesday evening K. Meckel preached; on Wednesday evening Aug. Huelster; on Thursday evening Editor G. Heinmiller; on Friday evening Bishop Bowman gave a lecture on his Trip in Japan, and on Saturday evening Prof. S. L. Umbach preached. After the sermon the bishop read the appointments to an expectant house.

Sunday was an ideal spring day. The spacious church was crowded with people. The Sunday-school met at nine o'clock and was addressed by several brethren. At ten o'clock the bishop preached with his usual vigor and under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. In the afternoon he ordained four young ministers, during which ceremony all felt the sacredness of these rites.

G. Heinmiller led the missionary meeting in a masterly manner, during which $1900 were placed on the altar of the Lord. In the evening the bishop preached in the English language to a very large audience.

On Monday a blessed communion service was held. Just before noon the conference adjourned. The good people of Blue Earth City had treated us all so well, that we felt very much at home among them. A very hearty vote of thanks was tendered them for their kind hospitality.

During the Year, 1897-1898

This year the banner went to Wells Circuit, where Gagstetter and Iwig secured 40 conversions and 24 accessions. Next came A. Zabel of Preston Circuit with 31 converts and 31 new members. This field had a large number of conversions during this and previous years, and yet about 15 years later it had dwindled down to a weak mission. G. Britzius rejoiced over 31 regenerations and 42 new members on Lamberton Circuit. A. G. Sahr was privileged to lead 22 immortal souls to their Saviour and 26 into the church. F. F. Arndt, on Hammond Mission, had blessed revivals, which netted 25 conversions and 12 accessions, while J. M. Baitinger reported 24 converts and 27 new members from Wadena Mission. A. Huelster persuaded 23 souls to come to Christ and 25 into the church on Olivia Circuit. On old Zion Circuit J. Gongoll saw 23 enter the kingdom of Christ and 18 join the church. G. H. Schaefer's hard labor on Appleton Mission was rewarded by 22

conversions and 17 accessions, and on Waseca Circuit Sydow and Engelbart led 23 souls to their Redeemer and received 19 into the church. J. Manthey had 14 conversions on Hutchinson charge; A. Geyman 18 on Bellingham; S. B. Goetz 11 on Highland Park; H. Plantikow 13 in Blue Earth City; J. Kienholz 11 on Renville; J. Graeben 11 on Fairmont; L. Passer 12 on Le Sueur; F. H. Draeger 10 on Marshall.

There was a total of 454 conversions and 416 accessions. The total membership had mounted up to 6748. There were 58 itinerant preachers, 105 churches and 48 parsonages.

The work was still carried on quite exclusively in the German language, as can be seen by the number of subscribers to our church periodicals. The *Botschafter* had 1673 subscribers, the *Messenger* 229, the *Kinderfreund* 688 and the *Sunday-School Messenger* 154.

Several new churches were built: one, the Tabor Church, on Le Sueur Center Mission, under the supervision of A. T. Ehlert. The old Salem's Church on Zion Circuit had been badly wrested by a storm. It was torn down and a larger new brick-veneered church built on the same site at a cost of $6217.74. Brother Gongoll was the pastor.

At Buffalo Lake an old church was bought.

The Racine Church and parsonage were moved from the country into the town. Rev. Schoenleben superintended the undertaking. It cost $886.13. At Hammond a new parsonage was built, with F. F. Arndt overseeing the job. The old property at Frontenac had been sold.

Conference Session, 1898

On Thursday, May 5, 1898, the conference met in annual session at Meriden, a small place on the North-western Railway, near Waseca. The society there was strong enough then to entertain the conference, but in the course of time has dwindled down to only a few families. Bishop Escher was present to preside. It was his thirteenth and last time to preside over our conference. He was like a father among the brethren. He was ripe in years, experience and Christian perfection. His devotional exercises were spiritual. In his opening address he exhorted the ministers to obey the rules and regulations of the church, and maintain them with great firmness; to be loyal to the church, to work, suffer and die for it. During those years he was engaged in compiling his

1898

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE, 1898

Theology, and during this session he explained various portions of the Bible. These talks were very helpful to the ministers. He was remarkably strong physically and bright mentally, considering his age, yet it could be noticed that his powers were waning.

He appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary again, and he chose Graeben, Mueller, Schoenleben and H. Plantikow as his assistants.

Completing the Lists

A. C. Schmidt, who had preached in this conference from 1870 to 1892, when he retired and settled down at Paynesville, now took his credentials for the Dakota Conference.

Fred Haueter, who had preached only four years, had gone to his eternal reward during the year.

C. C. Engelbart was voted his orders as deacon, and also G. Koch, but conditionally.

R. C. Mittelstadt and S. R. Iwig were advanced to the order of elder.

A. Geyman and C. C. Engelbart were received into the itinerancy.

E. J. Hielscher retired from the active work, after having preached uninterruptedly for 30 years, and settled down in Faribault.

G. Spaeth was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

G. Spaeth's term as Presiding Elder had expired. H. Bunse was elected in his stead.

Historical Document

L. von Wald had at a district meeting or some other gathering read a paper, giving statistical figures and a few facts concerning the first years of our work as a church in Minnesota. The conference gave him $10.00 at this time for the document, which is still in its possession. Nearly all of it was taken from the early records.

Patriotic Resolutions

At the time of this session our country was at war with Spain, on account of the sinking of the "Maine." The prime cause, though, was the oppression of Cuba by Spain. While at Meriden the conference received the news of Dewey's victory in Manila Bay, and enthusiastically passed patriotic resolutions as follows:

1898

"To His Excellency, Wm. McKinley, President of the United States.

Whereas our beloved country is at this time engaged in a war with Spain, whereby the lives of many of our best young men, as well as vast commercial interests and much public and private property are imperilled, and,

Whereas we have taken up arms in behalf of the people of Cuba, who suffer oppressions and tyranny at the hands of the Spanish government, therefore be it

Resolved, that we recognize with profound gratification the wise and careful conduct of the President of the United States in this crisis, and devoutly invoke upon President Wm. McKinley the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his exalted and responsible office.

Resolved that we continue to pray that this war may speedily end in the triumph of a righteous cause and in securing liberty to the oppressed.

Resolved that a copy of these resolutions, signed by the President and Secretary of this conference, be transmitted to his Excellency, Wm. McKinley, President of the United States.

Signed: J. J. Escher, President, and G. Duebendorf, Secretary."

The following reply was received:

"Executive Mansion, Washington, May 12, 1898.

Rev. G. Duebendorf, Kasson, Minn.

Dear Sir:—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant with enclosed resolutions, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

With assurances of the President's sincere appreciation of the cordial sentiments of good will therein contained, I am,

Very truly yours,

JOHN ADDISON PORTER,

Secretary to the President."

This action of the conference again proves the loyalty of our ministers to our country. The Evangelical Association has always stood up for the welfare of our country and the principles of its government. Its members are of the most law-abiding citizens in the land.

Conference Picture

The conference requested each minister to send his photograph to the secretary, so that he might have a *conference* picture

made. A very good picture was produced. It contains the photographs of 61 ministers, including Bishop Escher. A cut was made of it and used for the Conference Journal. A larger picture was made, suitable to frame and hang on the wall. It was seen in the homes of many Evangelical families.

Boundaries

Greenwood was returned from Rochester to Hammond Mission.

Fairpoint was transferred from Kasson to East Prairie Circuit.

Clara City and vicinity were taken from Olivia Circuit and added to Appleton Mission.

Magnolia was changed from Luverne to Worthington Mission.

Chaska, Duluth and Rush City were transferred from Minneapolis to St. Paul District.

Now the fields were arranged to receive their pastors.

Appointments

The Stationing Committee was ready to report unusually early. The bishop read the appointments on Friday afternoon.

St. Paul District—G. W. Hielscher, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. M. Baitinger
St. Paul, Winifred Street, J. Manthey
East Prairie, F. W. Tesch
Le Sueur Center, A. T. Ehlert
Dakota, G. Britzius
Kasson, G. Duebendorf
Rochester, H. Hensel
Racine, M. Schoenleben
Preston, A. Zabel
Faribault, J. Gengoll
St. Charles, F. C. Schmidt
Waseca, C. W. Sydow and supply
Hammond, F. F. Arndt
Winona, West King Street, G. Spaeth
Winona, East 4th Street, J. J. Boelter
Mound Prairie, K. Meckel
Chaska, C. C. Engelbart
Rush City, E. Helmer
Duluth, A. H. Utzinger

Minneapolis District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Avenue, A. Geyman
Minneapolis, Highland Park, S. B. Goetz
Maple Grove, C. F. Sydow
Olivia, A. Huelster.
Hutchinson, G. H. Siebold
Crow River, A. G. Sahr
Paynesville, M. Gagstetter
Zion, J. Graeben
St. Cloud, F. G. Sahr
Royalton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Brainerd, B. Simon
Wadena, J. H. Muehlhausen
Otter Tail, A. J. Iwan
Elizabeth, F. W. Siebel
Alexandria, C. A. Tesch
Odessa, L. S. Stapf
Appleton, G. H. Schaefer
Bellingham, E. H. Bollenbach

1898

Mankato District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Mankato, H. Isker
Blue Earth, J. Kienholz
Blue Earth City, H. Plantikow
Amboy, S. R. Iwig
Wells, J. G. Simon and F. P. Werner
Le Sueur, L. Passer
Courtland, W. F. Lenz
Renville, A. Reeck
Winthrop, O. Schulz
Lamberton, C. F. Kachel
Fairmont, W. A. Juedes
Worthington, C. W. Wolthausen
Luverne, D. Groenig
Pipestone, F. H. Draeger
Marshall, H. A. Seder

Many moves were made, 31 in all. Some had to go great distances, as, for instance, B. Simon from Winona to Brainerd; C. F. Sydow from Odessa to Maple Grove; A. Geyman from Bellingham to Minneapolis; L. S. Stapf from East Prairie to Odessa.

Worship

What a blessing it is to the ministers that the exacting business hours are interspersed with religious services. It is a rest for the mind to turn from figures and resolutions and reports to the Word of God and to prayer. J. M. Baitinger preached on Tuesday evening; Brother Yenney of Nebraska on Wednesday evening; George Johnson on Thursday evening; on Friday evening there was a Young People's Alliance rally, and on Saturday evening father Yost preached on the theme: "Our Father." On Saturday morning a memorial service was held in honor of Brother F. Haueter, at which the bishop spoke in touching words.

On Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock, G. Spaeth led a consecration meeting. The bishop preached an unctuous ordination sermon. In the afternoon he ordained three young ministers under the directions of the Holy Ghost. W. Yost followed with a missionary address, after which $1300 were pledged for the cause of missions. In the evening Editor S. P. Spreng favored us with an excellent sermon.

On Monday morning the ministers and laity gathered around the Lord's table and partook of the consecrated emblems typifying the holy body and blood of Christ. The conference adjourned on Monday forenoon.

As much as the ministers desire to go to the annual sessions, to meet each other and to enjoy the privileges thereof, so anxious they are to leave again when the conference adjourns. The train can't come too soon to take them home again.

1898

How They Worked—1898-1899

This year there were 14 fields which could not report any conversions, and 16 which reported less than 10 each. The highest number of conversions we find on Wells Circuit, namely, 42, and the same number of accessions. J. G. Simon and F. P. Werner were the pastors. L. S. Stapf had 39 converts and 27 accessions on Odessa Circuit. G. Duebendorf led 36 souls to Christ and received 32 into the church on Kasson Circuit. J. Graeben had the pleasure to see 23 converted and 22 join the church on Zion Circuit. Those were glorious meetings, in which so many souls were born into the kingdom of God. F. W. Tesch had 11 conversions on East Prairie charge; J. M. Baitinger 19 in Pine Street; J. J. Boelter 11 in East Winona; A. Huelster 18 on Olivia; A. J. Iwan 13 on Otter Tail; R. C. Mittelstadt 13 on Royalton, and E. H. Bollenbach 10 on Bellingham.

There was some building activity. Under the supervision of J. H. Muehlhausen a church was built at Oak Valley, seven miles from Wadena. F. H. Draeger supervised the erection of a good church in the city of Pipestone. C. F. Kachel directed the building activities in the erection of a church at Red Rock.

The parsonage at Royalton was sold and a new one built near the church in the country, in the town of Graham. R. C. Mittelstadt looked after this undertaking. A. J. Iwan saw to it that a parsonage was built in Deer Creek. The Preston parsonage was rebuilt at a cost of $1159.88 under the supervision of A. Zabel.

THIRTY-SECOND SESSION, 1899

In the same church, the Emanuel's Church, on Odessa Circuit, where they had met in 1883, the ministers made their appearance this time. How the personnel of the conference had changed in 16 years! So many were missing who were present then, and others were in their places. W. Stegner, Strohmeier, Brill, Knebel, John Schmitt and Gustave Schmidt had answered the summons to a higher conference. A number had entered the Dakota Conference. Some, like father Yahn, had retired and were waiting for their sun of life to set. Two had left the church. The old leaders were gone, and the young men of those days were the leaders now. Thus time serves the best of men.

Bishop Bowman, who was present for the ninth time, called the conference to order May 4, 1899, and opened the session with

fervent devotional exercises. Then he delivered a timely opening address. Brother Stapf, the pastor of the conference church, welcomed us in a spicy little speech. The conference choir revived our spirits by their singing.

The chairman again appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary. He chose the same assistants he had at the last session.

H. Mattill, T. C. Meckel, J. C. Hornberger and a few Dakota brethren were present as visitors.

Completing the Lists

Paul A. Lang, George G. Schmid, Gustave J. Krienke and W. H. Link were licensed as preachers on probation.

F. P. Werner was advanced to the order of deacon.

D. Groenig and J. J. Boelter were voted their orders as elder.

D. Groenig and F. P. Werner were received into the itinerancy.

G. Koch was given credentials to the Oregon Conference.

F. R. Plantikow was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

F. R. Plantikow, H. Bunse, G. W. Hielscher, J. G. Simon and G. Spaeth were elected delegates to the coming General Conference.

General Conference

Only once in its history has the Minnesota Conference been privileged to have the General Conference meet within its bounds. In 1895 the St. Paul Pine Street society extended an invitation to the General Conference to hold its next quadrennial session in its church, which invitation was accepted. The nearer the time came for the session of the General Conference, the more the minister and people of our church in St. Paul realized what an undertaking they had upon their hands. So in 1898 our conference was induced to direct every congregation in the state to take up an offering for the entertainment of the General Conference. In 1899 the same resolution was passed again, and a second contribution was asked of each church. In all $403.29 were contributed for this purpose. A semi-Harvard plan was adopted to entertain the members of said conference. They were quartered in private houses and received breakfast there. A vacant store building was rented and fitted up for a dining hall and kitchen on the first floor. The second floor was made into sleeping apartments, which were rented to visitors. The members of the General Conference

were given their dinner and supper at this hall, but others had to pay for their meals. Various business men donated groceries and other things for the entertainment of the conference. The Presiding Elders and pastors of St. Paul and Minneapolis were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the entertainment of this conference. J. M. Baitinger was pastor of Pine Street Church at the time.

Many of the Minnesota pastors took advantage of this opportunity and visited the General Conference. It was the opportunity of a life-time for some. It was a privilege to see and hear so many of the leading men of the church. Usually the interest climaxes in the election of the bishops. This time all of the bishops were re-elected on the first ballot.

Boundaries

A few changes in the boundaries seemed advisable.

Fairpoint was transferred from East Prairie to Hammond.

Meriden was changed from Waseca to Faribault.

A Cherry Grove Circuit was created.

Barnum was transferred from Duluth to Rush City.

Magnolia was changed back from Worthington to Luverne.

Amboy Mission was discontinued and the appointments connected with Mankato, excepting St. James, which was united with Courtland Circuit.

A Clara City Mission was created.

Hancock and surrounding country were to be served from Appleton.

What Fields the Ministers Received

The appointments were read on Friday afternoon.

St. Paul District—G. W. Hielscher, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. M. Baitinger
St. Paul, Winifred Street, J. Manthey
East Prairie, F. W. Tesch
Le Sueur Center, S. R. Iwig
Dakota, G. Britzius
Kasson, G. Duebendorf
Rochester, H. Hensel
Racine, M. Schoenleben
Preston, J. J. Boelter
Cherry Grove, A. Zabel
Faribault, J. Gongoll
St. Charles, F. W. Lenz
Waseca, C. W. Sydow
Hammond, F. F. Arndt
Winona, W. King Street, G. Spaeth
Winona, East 4th Street, F. P. Werner
Mound Prarie, K. Meckel
Chaska, C. C. Engelbart
Duluth, A. H. Utzinger
Rush City, E. Helmer

1899

Minneapolis District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Avenue, A. Geyman
Minneapolis, Highland Park, S. B. Goetz
Maple Grove, C. F. Sydow
Olivia, A. Huelster
Hutchinson, G. H. Siebold
Crow River, A. G. Sahr
Paynesville, M. Gagstetter
Zion, J. Graeben
St. Cloud, F. G. Sahr
Royalton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Brainerd, B. Simon
Wadena, J. H. Muehlhausen
Otter Tail, A. J. Iwan
Elizabeth, F. W. Siebel
Alexandria, C. A. Tesch
Odessa, L. S. Stapf
Appleton, G. H. Schaefer
Bellingham, E. H. Bollenbach
Clara City, to supply

Mankato District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

Mankato, H. Isker
Blue Earth, J. Kienholz
Blue Earth Station, H. Plantikow
Wells, J. G. Simon and C. G. Roesti
Le Sueur, L. Passer
Courtland, C. W. Wolthausen
Sleepy Eye, R. M. Mueller
Renville, A. Reeck
Winthrop, O. Schulz
Lamberton, C. F. Kachel and supply
Fairmont, W. A. Juedes
Worthington, F. C. Schmidt
Luverne, D. Groenig
Pipestone, F. H. Draeger
Marshall, H. A. Seder

The Spiritual Phase

Odessa was considered a strong Evangelical center. There were three good-sized congregations in that vicinity. Bigstone and Milbank charges in Dakota are nearby. Thus a large attendance at the evening services and on Sunday was expected.

On Monday evening A. H. Utzinger preached; on Tuesday evening, C. W. Sydow, who had been pastor there years before; on Wednesday evening B. Simon; on Thursday evening H. Mattill; on Friday evening J. C. Hornberger, T. C. Meckel and Bishop Bowman addressed a Young People's Alliance rally. On Saturday evening J. C. Hornberger preached.

On Sunday morning the bishop preached the ordination sermon on Col. 4: 17. His theme was: "The High Office of the Christian Minister." He said the Christian ministry was not invented by man, but had its origin with God. Only he who has his office from God possesses the necessary authority when he speaks to the people. No matter how talented or well educated a man is, if he is not called of God we cannot use him. The possession of the Holy Ghost is our best equipment. The glory of our office consists in its grand object.

On Sunday afternoon the bishop ordained three young ministers, after which T. C. Meckel led the missionary meeting, at

which $1700 was laid upon the altar of God. In the evening the bishop conducted a blessed communion service.

The business of the conference had been finished on Saturday afternoon at 5:30. On Monday morning the ministers were ready to depart for their homes, leaving the good Odessa people to pursue their vocation of farming undisturbed.

Another Year of Work—1899-1900

The number of conversions had diminished some during the last few years. This year there were 354 in all, and 341 accessions. On Waseca Circuit C. W. Sydow had some old-time revivals, resulting in 32 conversions and 25 new members. Karl Meckel had a thorough revival at Mound Prairie, in which 30 souls found their Saviour and 26 joined the church. The fruits of this awakening were found yet many years afterward. L. S. Stapf had a harvest of 21 souls, of whom 14 joined the church, on old Odessa Circuit. J. M. Baitinger reported 16 conversions from Pine Street; F. W. Tesch had 15 on East Prairie; G. Spaeth 14 in West Winona; J. Graeben 11 on Zion; A. Huelster 10 on Olivia; A. J. Iwan 10 on Otter Tail; B. Simon 13 on Brainerd; C. F. Kachel 10 on Lamberton; H. Plantikow 12 on Blue Earth Station; C. W. Wolthausen 10 on Courtland; A. Reeck 9 on Renville, and L. Passer 13 on Le Sueur.

There was some activity in the line of building churches and parsonages. At Sleepy Eye, under the pastorate of R. M. Mueller, a substantial new church was erected in the place of the old. In the village of Marshall a good new church was erected under the direction of H. A. Seder. F. G. Sahr had charge of the building of a neat little church near South Haven. In 1916 it was moved into the village. The Salem's Church, 12 miles from Pipestone, was erected under the supervision of F. H. Draeger. A new church made its appearance in the village of Sargeant, G. Duebendorf being pastor. A little church was built near Barnum, where E. Helmer was in charge.

A new parsonage was built at *Cherry Grove.*

ANNUAL MEET, 1900

On Thursday, May 3, 1900, the conference met in the village of Wells, where it was royally entertained by the good Evangelical people. Brother J. G. Simon gave the ministers a hearty welcome in an interesting little speech. Bishop S. C. Breyfogel was pres-

ent as chairman. In his opening address he emphasized three points especially: 1. Faith in Christ; 2. The Wholesome Doctrine; 3. Faithfulness to the Church.

G. Duebendorf was again appointed secretary, and he chose J. Graeben, R. M. Mueller, H. Plantikow and J. M. Baitinger as his assistants.

Revising the Lists

Father G. Yahn had died during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed.

A. T. Ehlert had withdrawn from the church.

G. Frederick Gedosch and John Altner were licensed as preachers on probation.

C. C. Engelbart was promoted to the order of elder.

F. Emde, who had done much pioneer work in Minnesota, asked for credentials to the Dakota Conference.

F. R. Plantikow was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

The terms of F. R. Plantikow and G. W. Hielscher as Presiding Elders had expired. The former was re-elected, and G. Spaeth, after having served two years in the pastorate again, was elected in the place of Brother Hielscher.

Conference Debt

During the course of years a debt of about $16,000.00 had accumulated on the conference, caused by the erection of churches and parsonages on missions. Something must be done to raise the amount necessary to pay off the obligation. The plan, to appoint a solicitor to call on every congregation in the state to solicit funds for this purpose, was adopted. The Stationing Committee was given the authority to appoint the man for this task. They appointed R. M. Mueller, who proved to be the right man in the right place. At the next annual session he reported that the whole debt was secured in cash and pledges. The ministers themselves pledged $2500.00, which was nearly one-sixth of the entire debt. The conference felt very thankful to God when the debt was gone.

Centennial

Since the Evangelical Association dates its origin as an organization from the year 1800, it was now exactly one hundred years old. The whole denomination made arrangements for cen-

tennial celebrations. On Saturday evening of our conference session a centennial service was held. Bishop Breyfogel was chairman of the meeting. The conference choir rendered two special selections. Rev. J. G. Drehmel led in prayer. H. Bunse spoke on: "The Past History of Our Conference"; E. J. Hielscher on: "Biographical Sketches of Several of the Fathers of Our Conference," and H. Plantikow on: "The Problem of Education in Our Church." The bishop gave a short but instructive address at the close. The whole program was interesting.

Religious Services

On the first three evenings of the week C. C. Engelbart, G. W. Hielscher and A. Geyman preached. Geo. Johnson preached on Thursday evening. On Friday evening a Young People's Alliance rally was held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, at which the brethren Stapf, Goetz, Kachel and Zabel spoke. The Sunday services were also held in the spacious Methodist Episcopal Church, because ours was too small to hold the people. Johnson, Schoenleben and Utzinger spoke to the Sunday-school. At 10 H. Bunse led a consecration meeting. At 10:30 the bishop preached a very edifying ordination sermon. His theme was "The Cross of Christ." He affirmed that the world, with all its wisdom and all its accomplishments, could not solve the two great problems, found in every human heart: "What is the meaning of human misery, and what and where is there a real remedy for it?" This can be done only by Christ, our King, exalted on the cross. The cross is the most significant symbol of salvation; the means to reach the sinner's heart. Like as both arms of the cross met at the body of Christ, so the eternal arms of God, which uphold the moral universe, namely, his righteousness and his mercy, meet there, where the thorn-crowned Saviour bowed his head in death. The triumphant march of the cross is full of glory. The Saviour carried his cross the short distance from Jerusalem to Golgotha, but his disciples carried it back into the city again, and continue to carry it into all the countries of the whole world.

In the afternoon the bishop ordained C. C. Engelbart, the only candidate for ordination. Then he led the missionary meeting, at which $2500 was offered unto the Lord. In the evening he preached in the English language to a vast throng of people.

On Monday morning the Lord's Supper was celebrated, which was a season of blessings.

1900

Boundaries

A few minor changes were made. The Rush City Mission was divided into two fields, called Princeton and Hinckley Missions.

Clara City Mission was added to Appleton Mission.

Sleepy Eye was advanced to a station.

Jackson and Sherburn were detached from Fairmont Mission, and together with St. James constituted a Sherburn Mission.

The name of Royalton Mission was changed to Rice; of Otter Tail to Deer Creek, and of Dakota Circuit to Farmington.

Appointments

At 4 o'clock on Saturday afternoon the bishop read the report of the Stationing Committee.

St. Paul District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, J. M. Baitinger
St. Paul, Winifred Street, H. Plantikow
East Prairie, F. W. Tesch
Le Sueur Center, F. P. Werner
Farmington, G. Britzius
Kasson, G. Duebendorf
Rochester, H. Hensel
Racine, M. Schoenleben
Preston, J. J. Boelter
Cherry Grove, A. Zabel
Faribault, G. A. Lippert*
St. Charles, G. H. Schaefer
Waseca, H. Isker
Hammond, F. F. Arndt
Winona West King and Winona East 4th Street, J. Manthey
Mound Prairie, K. Meckel
Hinckley, S. R. Iwig
Duluth, L. S. Stapf

Minneapolis District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Ave., A. Geyman
Minneapolis, Highland Park, S. B. Goetz
Maple Grove, C. F. Sydow
Olivia, A. Huelster
Hutchinson, G. H. Siebold
Crow River, A. G. Sahr
Paynesville, M. Gagstetter
Zion, J. Graeben
St. Cloud, A. H. Utzinger
Rice, A. J. Iwan
Brainerd, B. Simon
Wadena, J. H. Muehlhausen
Deer Creek, E. Helmer
Elizabeth, F. W. Siebel
Alexandria, H. A. Seder
Odessa, G. W. Hielscher
Appleton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Bellingham, E. H. Bollenbach
Chaska and Princeton, C. C. Engelbart

Mankato District—G. Spaeth, P. E.

Mankato, F. G. Sahr
Blue Earth, J. Kienholz
Blue Earth Station, J. Gongoll
Wells, J. G. Simon and C. G. Roesti
Le Sueur, L. Passer
Courtland, C. W. Wolthausen
Sleepy Eye, C. W. Sydow
Renville, A. Reeck
Winthrop, F. Moede
Lamberton, C. F. Kachel
Fairmont, O. Schulz
Sherburn, W. A. Juedes
Worthington, F. C. Schmidt
Luverne, D. Groenig
Pipestone, F. H. Draeger
Marshall, C. A. Tesch

*Brother Lippert did not come from Switzerland to take his appointment at Faribault, so the Presiding Elder transferred A. Zabel from Cherry Grove to Faribault, and appointed W. Link to serve Cherry Grove.

On Monday forenoon the business was finished, and the conference adjourned.

Another Year of Work—1900-1901

Out into the harvest field they went, to thrust their sickles into the ripened grain. G. Britzius stands at the head of the list with 41 conversions and 33 accessions on Farmington Circuit. Next came H. Plantikow with 30 conversions and 32 new members on Winifred Street Station. A. H. Utzinger secured 26 converts and 34 new members on St. Cloud Mission. Simon and Roesti rejoiced over 22 souls saved and 19 received into the church. H. Isker had 17 conversions on Waseca charge; J. M. Baitinger 16 on Pine Street; A. Zabel 10 on Faribault; M. Schoenleben 10 on Racine; G. W. Hielscher 10 on Odessa; M. Gagstetter 14 on Paynesville; C. F. Sydow 17 on Maple Grove; B. Simon 18 on Brainerd, and A. Reeck 10 on Renville. The membership went up to 6780. Wells Circuit stood at the head of the list in point of membership, having 341 members. Next came Lamberton with 281, Olivia with 233, and Odessa with 230.

On account of a prodigious effort having been made to liquidate the conference debt, there was not much doing in the line of building this year. At Wabasso, under the pastorate of C. F. Kachel, the Pilgrim Church was built at a cost of $2441.10.

The Zion's Church at Germantown was rebuilt and much enlarged at a cost of $2425.

A new church was built in Fairmont under the supervision of O. Schultz at a cost of $2767.90.

The parsonage at Winthrop was sold and another secured in Buffalo Lake.

THE CONFERENCE SESSION, 1901

This time the ministers went to Lamberton to meet in the newly renovated and enlarged church at Germantown, five miles from the village of Lamberton. C. F. Kachel, the genial host of the conference, assigned them to their quarters. It was the first time most of the good Evangelical people of this vicinity had ever seen a conference of ministers. They attended both the business sessions and the preaching services in large numbers.

Bishop Thomas Bowman was chairman of the conference and called it to order at 9 o'clock A. M. on Thursday, May 2, 1901.

1901

After the usual opening exercises and address he appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary. He chose J. Graeben, H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben and J. M. Baitinger as assistants.

H. Mattill, W. Yost and George Johnson were received as advisory members.

The Ranks

George Ingalls of Cherry Grove, F. W. Schwenk of Brainerd and John D. Meede were licensed to preach. The first named never really considered himself a minister, and his license was canceled some years later.

F. P. Werner was advanced to the order of elder.

C. G. Roesti was voted his order as deacon and received into the itinerancy.

P. A. Lang, who had been licensed by our conference, but had preached two years in the Illinois Conference, and been ordained deacon and received into the itinerancy by it, was entered upon our records as itinerant deacon.

F. R. Plantikow was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

† *Bishop J. J. Escher* †

Shortly before this session of the conference, on April 16, 1901, after a long siege of suffering, this good and faithful servant of the Lord passed from labor to reward. He was as a father to our conference. The brethren who knew him never forgot him. It is not in the province of this work to give a sketch of his life, but I would refer the reader to his biography, written by Bishop W. Horn. It is well worth reading. He served as active bishop about 37½ years. Our conference passed the following resolutions:

"Whereas it has pleased God, in his allwise Providence, to call our honored Bishop J. J. Escher from time to eternity, therefore be it resolved,

1. That the report of the death of Bishop Escher deeply affected us.

2. That, in the demise of the bishop, the church lost one of its most capable, diligent and faithful workers, who, with full devotion and restless zeal, consecrated himself to his high calling, laboring with untiring energy to the very end of his life in building up the kingdom of God and the Evangelical Association, and, therefore, was rightfully entitled to the high esteem which was so generally accorded him.

3. That, although we deeply feel the loss of so esteemed a co-laborer, yet, nevertheless, we submit ourselves to the will of God, and thank him that he spared the bishop so many years and made him such a blessing to the church, and that he was permitted to close his earthly career honorably and, as a servant of Jesus Christ, to enter the rest of the people of God.

4. That we assure the bereaved family, especially his aged companion, our heartfelt sympathy, and wish her God's guidance, comfort and support during her remaining life and a happy reunion in the mansions above."

Boundaries

Meriden and Morristown were transferred from Faribault to Waseca.

Prairieville was taken from East Prairie and addded to Faribault.

Fairpoint was changed from Hammond to East Prairie.

Barnum was added to Duluth.

The arrangement of the previous year was undone by again uniting Hinckley and Pinceton Missions under the name of Rush City Mission.

Chaska was united with Crow River Circuit.

Winthrop Mission was constituted Buffalo Lake Circuit.

Elmore was transferred from Blue Earth Station to Blue Earth Circuit.

Wabasso, New Avon and Springfield were taken from Lamberton Circuit and constituted a Wabasso Mission.

Hendricks and appointments near-by were formed into Hendricks Mission.

Thus two missions were formed, which continued until the present time.

Assigned Their Fields

St. Paul District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.
St. Paul, Pine Street, J. M. Baitinger
St. Paul, Winifred Street, H. Plantikow
East Prairie, P. A. Lang
Le Sueur, F. P. Werner
Farmington, G. Britzius
Kasson, M. Gagstetter
Rochester, H. Hensel
Racine, F. H. Draeger
Preston, A. Geyman
Cherry Grove, M. Schoenleben
Faribault, A. Zabel
St. Charles, G. H. Schaefer
Waseca, H. Isker and F. W. Schwenk
Hammond, A. G. Sahr
Winona, West King, J. Manthey
Winona, East 4th Street, J. D. Moede
Mound Prairie, C. C. Engelbart
Rush City, S. R. Iwig
Duluth, L. S. Stapf

1901

Minneapolis District—H. Bunse, P. E.

Minneapolis, Sixth Ave., S. B. Goetz
Minneapolis, Highland Park, F. W. Tesch
Maple Grove, F. F. Arndt
Olivia, R. M. Mueller
Hutchinson, A. Huelster
Crow River, J. Graeben
Paynesville, G. Duebendorf
Zion, L. Passer
St. Cloud, A. H. Utzinger
Rice, A. J. Iwan
Brainerd, B. Simon
Wadena, J. H. Muehlhausen
Deer Creek, E. Helmer
Elizabeth, D. Groenig
Alexandria, H. A. Seder
Odessa, G. W. Hielscher
Appleton and Clara City, R. C. Mittelstadt and John Altner
Bellingham, E. H. Bollenbach

Mankato District—G. Spaeth, P. E.

Mankato, F. G. Sahr
Blue Earth, J. Kienholz
Blue Earth Station, J. Gongoll
Wells, J. G. Simon and G. Krienke
Le Sueur, W. A. Juedes
Courtland, C. W. Wolthausen
Sleepy Eye, C. W. Sydow
Renville, A. Reeck
Buffalo Lake, F. Moede
Lamberton, C. F. Kachel
Fairmont, O. Schultz
Sherburn, K. Meckel
Worthington, F. C. Schmidt
Luverne, F. W. Siebel
Pipestone, C. F. Sydow
Marshall, C. A. Tesch
Wabasso, C. G. Roesti
Hendricks, Wm. Walter

Religious Services

Our Discipline requires that preaching or religious services shall be held every evening during the session of the annual conference. Usually the Presiding Elders arrange for some one to preach during the first evenings of the week, before the conference proper is in session. The bishop then appoints a Committee on Worship, which, according to propriety and custom, consists of the Presiding Elders and the minister, in whose church the conference convenes.

L. Passer preached on Monday evening, A. Huelster on Tuesday evening, and H. Plantikow on Wednesday evening. At the close of the sermon on Wednesday evening C. F. Kachel, the pastor of the church entertaining the conference, gave a unique address of welcome, to which C. W. Sydow responded. It appears from the records that no other minister of our conference preached so often at the annual sessions as August Huelster. Some never get a chance to preach on these occasions, while others are frequently given this privilege. There are good reasons for this discretion.

On Thursday evening George Johnson preached, and on Friday evening H. Mattill. A Young People's Alliance rally was held on Saturday evening, at which the brethren Goetz, Zabel and Baitinger spoke.

On Sunday morning H. Bunse led a blessed consecration meeting, and then Bishop Bowman preached a great ordination sermon, which brought many blessings to the large audience. In the afternoon he ordained two junior preachers and then conducted the missionary meeting, at which $2200 were pledged for God's kingdom. In the evening W. Yost gave us a sermon on the words: "Our Father." He loved to preach on that text. It was a very dark and rainy evening. Some of the people could not come to the church. It was so dark that some people could not find their homes, but had to turn back and remain in the church until morning.

On Monday morning the business was finished and a communion service held. Then the conference adjourned, and the ministers scattered in all directions to their various homes.

They Prayed and Worked—1901-1902

This year there was a signal increase in conversions, being a total of 547. The significant feature was the large number of regenerations on several fields. Lamberton Circuit, under the labors of C. F. Kachel, had a great religious awakening, resulting in 75 conversions and 35 accessions. Many of these really were reconsecrations. On Zion Circuit L. Passer saw 63 come to Christ and 49 join the church. These were glorious meetings, never to be forgotten in time or eternity. How the power of Christ to save manifested itself! The glory of God filled the churches. G. W. Hielscher had 32 conversions and 26 accessions on Odessa Circuit. G. Duebendorf had the privilege to lead 32 souls to Christ and receive 21 into the church. F. F. Arndt had a great revival at Maple Grove, netting 25 converts and 18 new members. A. Huelster had good meetings on Hutchinson Circuit, at which 20 souls came to their Saviour and 24 joined the church. Wells Circuit was quickened spiritually by 26 conversions and 21 accessions, J. G. Simon, pastor. Waseca charge had 17 conversions, Kasson 18, Pine Street 17, Winifred Street 18, Faribault 11, Mound Prairie 18, Olivia 11, Elizabeth 13, St. Cloud 12, Minneapolis, 6th Avenue, 13, Renville 11, Courtland 16, Le Sueur 10. The reader is referred to the last list of appointments to see who were the pastors of these fields.

Two parsonages were built during the year, one at Pipestone, under the supervision of C. F. Sydow, and one at Wabasso, where C. G. Roesti was pastor.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE

Annual Session, 1902

After another year of hard labor and glorious victories the ministers met again in annual session in Blue Earth City, which is a strong Evangelical center. Bishop Horn called the conference to order at 9 A. M., May 1, 1902. He conducted the usual opening exercises. The examination of the junior preachers and annual meetings of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Conference Missionary Society, the Sunday-School and Tract Union had been held on Tuesday and Wednesday preceding.

The chairman again appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary, who chose as his assistants J. Graeben, M. Schoenleben, H. Plantikow and J. M. Baitinger.

The Personnel

B. R. Wiener of the Iowa Conference, G. A. Lippert of the Switzerland Conference, and G. G. Schmid of the Illinois Conference were received into this conference in the same relation which they sustained in those conferences. The last named had never been taken from our records, and only belonged to the Illinois Conference while attending school.

F. W. Schwenk took credentials for the New York Conference.

G. J. Krienke was ordained deacon.

H. Bunse's term as Presiding Elder had expired. J. M. Baitinger was elected in his stead.

F. R. Plantikow was again elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Deaconess Cause

This cause had been well established in our European conferences and accomplished much good. It had received the endorsement of our leading ministers in America, and several conferences had already organized Deaconess Societies. This matter had been brought up in our conference several years before and referred to the Presiding Elders as a committee, but they never reported. At this session it was brought up again and referred to the Committee on Sabbath and Temperance. They made the following report, which was adopted:

"Whereas other denominations do much in the line of caring for the sick, and our own church has achieved great success in the Germany, Switzerland, Illinois and Canada Conferences, and

Whereas we believe there is a demand also in our conference for this work, therefore resolved:

1902

1. That the necessary steps be taken to begin this work in the bounds of our conference.

2. That the three Presiding Elders and the ministers of St. Paul and Minneapolis constitute a committee for the ensuing year to take action in the deaconess cause.

3. That the committee organize as soon as convenient and draft a constitution and by-laws for said cause.

4. That they issue through our church weeklies an appeal to the people to support this noble cause.

5. That they report to the next session of the conference."

This committee reported to the conference in 1903 that it had met twice and gotten some information from Bishop Horn and J. Wellner, but considered that it had not specific instructions from the conference as to how to proceed, and, therefore, thought it unwise to make an appeal to the people to support the cause at this time. Thus the matter was dropped for the time being.

At the annual session in 1904 the above committee was revived and reinstructed to take steps for the organization of a Conference Branch of the deaconess work of our church.

This committee reported in 1905 that the conference should organize such a branch society. A committee of three, namely, J. Manthey, S. B. Goetz and A. H. Utzinger, were appointed to nominate members for such a society. The committee nominated the following: H. Plantikow, J. M. Baitinger, L. S. Stapf, G. Spaeth, B. R. Wiener, F. R. Plantikow, S. B. Goetz, W. F. Kaufmann, Mrs. J. S. Frey, Mrs. Mary Bowers, D. H. Dreesen, Mrs. W. Langley, Mrs. P. Knopf, Mrs. J. J. Meyer and J. H. Burmester. F. R. Plantikow was designated as treasurer, to receive any money given for this purpose. This was the beginning of the deaconess work in our conference.

Boundaries

Rice Lake and Brush Creek were detached from Wells Circuit and called Rice Lake Circuit.

Osceola was added to Buffalo Lake Circuit.

Birchdale was taken from Rice and added to Alexandria.

Duluth and Rush City were transferred from St. Paul to Minneapolis District.

1902

Stationing

The appointments were read on Saturday forenoon.

St. Paul District—F. R. Plantikow, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, B. R. Wiener
St. Paul, Winifred Street, H. Plantikow
East Prairie, P. A. Lang
Le Sueur Center, F. P. Werner
Farmington, G. H. Schaefer
Kasson, M. Gagstetter
Rochester, C. W. Wolthausen
Racine, F. H. Draeger
Preston, A. Geyman
Cherry Grove, M. Schoenleben
Faribault, A. Zabel
St. Charles, A. Reeck
Waseca, H. Isker and J. Moede
Hammond, A. G. Sahr
Winona, H. Bunse
Mound Prairie, C. C. Engelbart

Minneapolis District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Avenue, S. B. Goetz
Minneapolis, Highland Park, F. W. Tesch
Maple Grove, F. F. Arndt
Olivia, R. M. Mueller
Hutchinson, A. Huelster
Crow River, J. Graeben
Paynesville, G. Duebendorf
Zion, L. Passer
St. Cloud, G. Britzius
Rice. W. Walter
Brainerd, J. G. Simon
Wadena, G. G. Schmid
Deer Creek, E. Helmer
Elizabeth, D. Groenig
Alexandria, H. A. Seder
Odessa, G. W. Hielscher
Appleton, R. C. Mittelstadt
Bellingham, F. C. Schmidt
Rush City, S. R. Iwig
Duluth, L. S. Stapf

Mankato District—G. Spaeth, P. E.

Mankato, F. G. Sahr
Blue Earth Circuit, A. H. Utzinger
Blue Earth Station, J. Gongoll
Wells, C. F. Kachel
Rice Lake, G. A. Lippert
Le Sueur, W. A. Juedes
Courtland, J. Kienholz
Sleepy Eye, C. W. Sydow
Renville, E. H. Bollenbach
Buffalo Lake, F. Moede
Lamberton, K. Meckel
Fairmont, O. Schultz
Sherburn, C. G. Roesti
Worthington, J. H. Muehlhausen
Luverne, F. W. Siebel
Pipestone, C. F. Sydow
Marshall, C. A. Tesch
Wabasso, H. Hensel
Hendricks, G. J. Krienke

Devotional Exercises

A. H. Utzinger preached on Monday evening, M. Schoenleben on Tuesday evening, B. R. Wiener on Wednesday evening, George Johnson on Thursday evening, Bishop Horn on Friday evening. Saturday evening was devoted to the interests of the Young People's Alliance. The audience was addressed by the brethren Lang, Krienke and Schmid.

Bishop Horn preached an ordination sermon, full of fat and marrow, on Sunday forenoon. In the afternoon he ordained G. J.

Krienke, after which he led the missionary service, at which $2250 was secured for the Lord's work. W. Yost assisted. In the evening J. H. Lamb preached to an immense congregation in the English language, after which holy communion was celebrated. The Lord was near.

In the Vineyard, 1902-1903

This year R. Mueller, on Olivia Circuit, secured the banner in the line of conversions, for he had the pleasure of leading 34 souls to their Saviour and receiving 26 into the church. H. Isker, on Waseca Circuit, secured 20 souls for his Master, and 16 joined the church. On Mound Prairie C. C. Engelbart had 19 conversions and accessions. A. H. Utzinger held revival meetings, at which 19 souls were saved and 20 joined the church. St. Paul, Pine Street, had 14 conversions, Winifred Street 15, Le Sueur Center 11, Hutchinson 15, Lamberton 12. In all there were 328 conversions and 285 accessions. The total number of members was 6907, a loss of 24 as against the previous year.

In the line of building there was more activity. The Winifred Street church of St. Paul was enlarged and modernized under the supervision of H. Plantikow at a cost of $4521. At Prairieville a new church was built in place of the old at an expense of $4128.15. A. Zabel was the pastor. On Luverne Circuit a neat little church was erected in the Bahnsen neighborhood under the labors of F. W. Siebel. In Waseca, under the supervision of H. Isker, a nice new church was built in stead of the old at a cost of $5270. At Farmington a church was bought. At Birchdale a new church was built, H. A. Seder being pastor. At Elmore, A. H. Utzinger, pastor, a good church was bought from the Free Baptists.

At Worthington a good parsonage was built under the direction of J. H. Muehlhausen. On Blue Earth Circuit the old parsonage was sold and a well-built new one erected under the supervision of A. H. Utzinger. At Morristown a church was bought.

The church and parsonage, with the lot, on East 4th Street, in Winona, were sold. The Barnum church was sold, as was also the church at Blooming Grove.

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION, 1903

For the first time in its history the conference met in Waseca. A nice, new, modern church had been built to receive this honor-

able body. Bishop Bowman was the chairman. He called the conference to order at 9 A. M. on May 7, 1903. After the usual opening ceremonies he appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose C. W. Wolthausen, A. H. Utzinger and R. C. Mittelstadt as assistants.

Revising the Lists

E. H. Baumann, one of the pioneer ministers, had died during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed. Sister Sophie Juedes, wife of Rev. W. A. Juedes, had also gone to her eternal home.

Fred R. Riedel of Duluth, William Sack of Zion Circuit, Robert R. Werner of Lamberton Circuit and C. C. Stettbacher were licensed as preachers on probation.

J. D. Moede was promoted to the order of deacon.

P. A. Lang and C. G. Roesti were advanced to the order of elder.

J. D. Moede and W. Walter were received into the itinerancy.

The supernumeraries of the conference were: J. J. Boelter, J. G. Drehmel, E. J. Hielscher, H. L. Holzgrafe, J. Manthey, F. C. Schmidt, G. H. Siebold and J. L. Stegner.

The superannuates were W. Lenz and F. Huelster.

F. R. Plantikow was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

In place of F. R. Plantikow, who had been a trustee of North-Western College for nine years, M. Schoenleben was elected. He has held that office ever since.

The following were elected as delegates to the General Conference, which met the following October: F. R. Plantikow, G. Spaeth, J. M. Baitinger, C. W. Sydow and J. G. Simon.

In the matter of boundaries there was nothing of importance reported, excepting that a new mission was created in northern Minnesota, called Bemidji Mission. It was later called Pequot Mission.

Appointments

The Stationing Committee reported on Saturday forenoon. It made so few changes that I refer the reader to last year's report and mention only the ones who had to move or came as new pastors to their fields.

Bellingham, G. J. Krienke
Bemidji, J. D. Moede
Waseca, Wm. Sack as assistant
Sleepy Eye, O. Schultz
Fairmont, C. W. Sydow
Winthrop, F. R. Riedel
Hendricks, B. Simon

1903

Worship

J. H. Muehlhausen preached on Tuesday evening, on Thursday evening E. H. Bollenbach, on Friday evening H. Mattill. Saturday evening was given over to the interests of the Young People's Alliance. On Saturday afternoon a memorial service was held in honor of E. H. Baumann and sister Juedes. H. Bunse spoke on this occasion. The Lord's Supper was celebrated at 9:30 on Sunday morning. After this Bishop Bowman preached the ordination sermon. In the afternoon he ordained three young ministers. W. Yost then led the missionary meeting, at which $2200 was pledged for the cause of missions. The bishop dispensed the Word once more in the evening. Although it was a dreary, rainy Sunday, yet many people attended the services, which were very much blessed.

On Monday the ministers bade good-by to their genial hosts to seek their loved ones at home.

Review of the Work, 1903-1904

The results in conversions were quite meager, there being only 313 in the whole conference. The highest number was reported by G. Duebendorf from Paynesville Circuit, namely, 37, with 28 accessions. H. A. Seder had good revivals on Alexandria Mission, resulting in 28 regenerations and 20 accessions. Farmington had 19 conversions, East Prairie 12, Rochester 15, Zion 14, Bellingham 13, Renville 12, Sleepy Eye 18 and Buffalo Lake 11. Other fields had less than 10 each.

There was but little building activity during the year. The church at Mound Prairie was enlarged and renovated under the supervision of C. C. Engelbart. At Farmington the old parsonage near New Trier was sold and a new one bought, G. H. Schaefer, pastor. The New Trier parsonage was the first one in the Minnesota Conference. It was sold for $107.50. The new one was situated in the city of Farmington. The district house in Minneapolis was sold for $2250.

Again They Meet, 1904

During the first days of lovely May the ministers journeyed to Salem's rolling fields on Zion's Circuit, to meet in its beautiful, large church. Bishop Breyfogel had come, like the wise men of old, from the *East*, to preside at our annual session. He called the conference to order on Thursday, May 5, 1904. He opened it

with devout religious services and an inspiring and instructive address.

He appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose as his assistants J. Graeben, A. H. Utzinger and R. C. Mittelstadt.

Revising the Lists

George Courrier was licensed to preach. He never took an appointment in our conference.

G. G. Schmid and G. J. Krienke were voted their orders as elder.

August R. Zick was licensed to preach.

H. W. Link took his credentials to the Nebraska Conference.

J. M. Baitinger was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

The terms of F. R. Plantikow and G. Spaeth as Presiding Elders had expired. The former had finished his third term, and the latter his second. In their places H. Plantikow and L. S. Stapf were elected. Now the conference had three comparatively young men at the head of its districts.

H. Bunse, who had become a familiar figure at so many conference sessions, was missing this time on account of illness.

The conference was honored by the presence of G. Johnson, C. Hauser, S. P. Spreng, W. Yost and G. Heinmiller.

Because so many ministers had to move this year, B. R. Wiener was elected Railroad Secretary, for the purpose of securing reduced freight rates for them.

Boundaries

A number of changes in the make-up of the fields were requested by the Presiding Elders and granted by the conference.

Ioska, Meriden and Morristown were detached from Waseca Circuit and called Morristown Mission.

Chaska and Rush City were to be served by one man.

Montrose was again taken from Maple Grove and added to Crow River.

Bellingham Mission was discontinued and Bellingham added to Odessa, and Madison to Appleton. Gary was added to Hendricks Mission.

Renville, Danube, Raymond, Priam and Osceola were constituted a Renville Mission.

Winthrop Mission was discontinued and the appointments added to Buffalo Lake Circuit.

Eden Valley, South Haven, Kimball and Steinbergs were constituted a South Haven Mission.

Renville Circuit was called Redwood Circuit.

North-Western College Endowment Fund

North-Western College and the Evangelical Seminary were hampered in their activities by a lack of income. The difficulty was becoming serious, and the General Conference took up the matter, recommending that an Endowment Fund of $250,000 be secured. This amount was apportioned among the different conferences belonging to the College Compact. This matter was presented to our conference by George Johnson, Treasurer of North-Western College and Evangelical Seminary. Thereupon the conference passed the following resolution:

"We consider as timely the recommendation of the honorable General Conference, that an effort be made to raise an Endowment Fund of $250,000 during this quadrennium. And, whereas, the Board of Trustees of North-Western College, at its last session, formulated a good plan for raising this sum, therefore resolved, that we consider this plan just and practicable, and herewith pledge ourselves to pay the amount apportioned to us. In the name of the Lord we will do our best to carry out this plan, on the condition that the Treasurer of North-Western College make a personal canvass for this purpose on the various fields of our conference."

The plan was, that the various conferences should assume their proportion of the fund, and pay four per cent interest on it annually, until the principal was paid.

The amount assumed by the Minnesota Conference was over $18,000. Revs. Johnson and Umbreit canvassed two districts of the conference and raised quite an amount. The educational collections were used to pay the interest and reduce the debt. A few extra gifts were received. At this writing (1922) this debt is about canceled.

Appointments

The bishop read them on Saturday forenoon. All were eager to know where they would be sent for the coming year.

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, B. R. Wiener
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Spaeth
East Prairie, P. A. Lang
Le Sueur Center, F. W. Siebel
Farmington, G. H. Schaefer
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, C. W. Wolthausen
Racine, F. P. Werner
Preston, A. Geyman
Cherry Grove, G. J. Krienke
Faribault, J. G. Simon
St. Charles, A. Reeck
Waseca, J. Gongoll
Morristown, A. Zabel
Hammond, A. G. Sahr
Winona, H. Bunse
Mound Prairie, C. C. Engelbart
Buffalo Lake, G. Britzius
Chaska and Rush City, J. L. Stegner

Minneapolis District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

Minneapolis, 6th Ave., S. B. Goetz
Minneapolis, Highland Park, F. R. Plantikow
Maple Grove, F. F. Arndt
Olivia, R. M. Mueller
Renville, A. R. Zick
Hutchinson, M. Gagstetter
Crow River, J. Graeben
Paynesville, G. Duebendorf
Zion, F. W. Tesch
St. Cloud, L. Passer
Rice, W. Walter
Brainerd, H. A. Seder
Wadena, G. G. Schmid
Deer Creek, F. R. Riedel
Elizabeth, D. Groenig
Alexandria, E. Helmer
Odessa, R. C. Mittelstadt
Appleton, S. R. Iwig
Duluth, C. A. Tesch
Bemidji, J. D. Moede
South Haven, F. Moede

Mankato District—L. S. Stapf, P. E.

Mankato, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth, A. H. Utzinger
Blue Earth Station, M. Schoenleben
Wells, C. F. Kachel
Rice Lake, G. A. Lippert
Le Sueur, J. Manthey
Courtland, H. Isker
Sleepy Eye, O. Schultz
Redwood, E. H. Bollenbach
Lamberton, F. G. Sahr
Fairmont, C. W. Sydow
Sherburn, C. G. Roesti
Worthington, J. H. Muehlhausen
Luverne, K. Meckel
Pipestone, C. F. Sydow
Marshall, G. W. Hielscher
Wabasso, H. Hensel
Hendricks, C. C. Stettbacher.

Worship

Large congregations assembled every evening, and especially on Sunday, to hear the Word of God.

J. G. Simon preached on Tuesday evening, C. W. Sydow on Wednesday evening, C. Hauser on Thursday evening, on Friday evening S. P. Spreng addressed a Young People's Alliance rally, and on Saturday evening W. Yost preached.

On Sunday forenoon Bishop Breyfogel preached an inspiring ordination sermon on Acts 17: 18. His theme was: Christ and the Resurrection. In the afternoon he ordained two ministers as elders. The missionary meeting followed the forenoon sermon,

but the soliciting was continued in the afternoon. A total sum of $3010 was raised for missions. A blessed communion service followed the ordination ceremony. In the evening G. Heinmiller, editor of the *Christliche Botschafter,* feasted us with a good sermon.

Thus another conference session came to a close, and newly strengthened, the servants of God hastened to their several homes, some thankful that they could remain another year on their old fields, and others that they were permitted to move.

In the Field Again, 1904-1905

The number of conversions increased over last year, being 445. A. Zabel was highest on the list, with 40, and 29 accessions on Morristown Mission. On Blue Earth Station M. Schoenleben had 28 conversions and received 26 into the church. G. Britzius led 26 souls to Christ and received 23 new members on Buffalo Lake Circuit. R. M. Mueller, on Olivia Circuit, was rewarded for his labors by 23 regenerations and 21 accessions. A. R. Zick on Renville Mission received 23 souls for his hire, and 27 for the church. J. Gongoll reported 10 conversions, G. Spaeth 11, P. Lang 12, F. W. Tesch 13, R. C. Mittelstadt 11, G. Duebendorf 17, S. R. Iwig 11, C. F. Kachel 18, G. A. Lippert 11, A. H. Utzinger 16, E. H. Bollenbach 17, C. F. Sydow 10, K. Meckel 17, and H. Hensel 12. God may discount or raise some of these figures. A man's success cannot be adequately measured by the number of conversions he reports. Eternity alone will reveal how much each man has accomplished. The main thing is to be faithful and do the best one can.

There was not much building activity. At Danube, under the direction of Mueller and Zick, a good church was built. O. Schultz rebuilt the parsonage at Sleepy Eye. The old parsonage at East Prairie was sold and another one bought in Kenyon. P. A. Lang was the pastor.

Thirty-Eighth Session, 1905

For the third time St. Paul, Pine Street Church, served as host to the conference. B. R. Wiener assigned the ministers to their quarters. Bishop Horn called the conference to order on Thursday morning, May 4, 1905. He opened the session with devotional exercises, followed by a comprehensive address.

He appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher, G. A. Lippert, R. C. Mittelstadt and M. Schoenleben as his assistants.

M. Gagstetter could not be present on account of illness.

In the Ranks

F. H. Draeger requested credentials to the Kansas Conference. He left Minnesota on account of the ill health of his wife.

F. R. Riedel was voted his order as deacon and received into the itinerancy.

W. Walter and J. D. Moede were advanced to the order of elder.

August Huelster

Brother Huelster completed fifty years of continuous service in the active itinerancy of the Evangelical Association. This was the first case of such long service in the conference, and it recognized this by the following resolutions:

"Whereas our dear Brother Aug. Huelster can look back over 50 years of continuous active service in the ministry, and, notwithstanding his age, is hale and hearty in our midst, therefore resolved,

1. That we rejoice to have him sound and healthy in our midst, especially because he is able to do a full man's work, and could step into the ranks of this year yet without conditions.

2. That, together with him, we thank God that he has been with his servant so far, and granted him this rare privilege. We wish our dear brother God's choicest blessings for the future, and hope that he may be able to continue many years yet with us in the active ranks."

A jubilee service was held in his honor on his field, Kasson Circuit, during the summer, at a Young People's Alliance Convention, at which G. Fritsche, a veteran of the Wisconsin Conference, and an old colleague of Brother Huelster, gave an address. Bishop Horn, another old colleague of his, also gave reminiscences.

L. S. Stapf

Near the end of his first year as Presiding Elder, Brother Stapf became ill. He attended the conference session, but could not do much work. The conference granted him a furlough of two months, and expressed its sympathy with him, and the hope that he might soon recover his health.

F. Huelster, Frederick Wolter and H. A. Aukes had died during the year. The last two had never served in the active ranks.

Boundaries

Cherry Grove and Preston were united into one field and called Preston Circuit.

Rush City was called Princeton Mission, and Renville Danube Mission.

Sixth Avenue and Highland Park in Minneapolis were united and called Minneapolis Station.

Appointments

They were read by the bishop on Saturday afternoon.

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, B. R. Wiener
St. Paul, Winifred St., G. Spaeth
East Prairie, C. W. Wolthausen
Le Sueur Center, F. W. Siebel
Farmington, R. M. Mueller
Kasson, A. Huelster
Rochester, A. G. Sahr
Racine, F. P. Werner
Preston, P. A. Lang
Faribault, J. G. Simon
St. Charles, A. Reeck
Waseca, J. Gongoll
Morristown, A. Zabel
Hammond, J. Graeben
Winona, A. Geyman
Mound Prairie, W. Walter
Buffalo Lake, G. Britzius
Chaska, H. Bunse
Princeton, J. L. Stegner

Minneapolis District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

Minneapolis, F. R. Plantikow
Maple Grove, G. H. Schaefer
Olivia, G. Duebendorf
Danube, A. R. Zick
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Crow River, D. Groenig
Paynesville, S. B. Goetz
Zion, F. W. Tesch
St. Cloud, L. Passer
Rice, J. D. Moede
Brainerd, H. A. Seder
Wadena, G. G. Schmid
Deer Creek, F. R. Riedel
Fergus Falls, F. F. Arndt
Alexandria, E. Helmer
Odessa, R. C. Mittelstadt
Appleton, S. R. Iwig
Duluth, C. A. Tesch
Bemidji, C. C. Stettbacher
South Haven, F. Moede
Emily, to supply

Mankato District—L. S. Stapf, P. E

Mankato, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Circuit, A. H. Utzinger
Blue Earth Station, M. Schoenleben
Wells, C. F. Kachel
Rice Lake, G. A. Lippert
Le Sueur, J. Manthey
Courtland, E. H. Bollenbach
Sleepy Eye, O. Schultz
Redwood, C. F. Sydow
Lamberton, F. G. Sahr
Fairmont, C. W. Sydow
Sherburn, C. C. Engelbart
Worthington, J. H. Muehlhausen
Luverne, K. Meckel
Pipestone, J. G. Krienke
Marshall, G. W. Hielscher
Wabasso, H. Hensel
Hendricks, C. G. Roesti

1905

Spiritual Culture

R. C. Mittelstadt preached on Monday evening, A. Zabel on Tuesday evening on Noah's Ark; C. Hauser on Thursday evening; J. Wellner and George Johnson spoke to the young people on Friday evening, and on Saturday evening a memorial service was held. On Sunday morning, at the Sunday-school, J. H. Muehlhausen and P. A. Lang spoke. At 10:15 the bishop preached a powerful ordination sermon on Matt. 4: 19. He portrayed the divine call to the ministry. Whoever is not vividly conscious of the command of the Lord will never be a successful preacher. Love must be the motive and converted souls the seal of the true ministry. Whoever is called is also endued with the necessary talents. In the Gospel the keys of heaven are handed to the minister; there he has great responsibility. Having faithfully performed his sacred duties, and richly laden with saved souls, a glorious welcome home awaits him.

In the afternoon he ordained three junior preachers. T. C. Meckel led the missionary meeting, after which $1600 were pledged for the Lord's cause. In the evening the dear bishop preached in the English language to a large concourse of people.

A number of Evangelical ministers preached in other churches of the city.

The business of the conference was finished on Monday forenoon, after which the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. Thus another blessed session was a thing of the past, but the results thereof will reach into eternity.

Work, for the Night is Coming—1905-1906

Although all did what they could, yet some achieved greater success than others. P. A. Lang had 33 conversions and 30 accessions on Preston Circuit. F. F. Arndt had 30 and 24 on Fergus Falls Mission. Brother Huelster led 27 souls to Christ and received 19 into the church on Kasson Circuit. G. Britzius rejoiced over 26 new-born souls and 19 accessions. The Lord gave H. Isker 22 souls for his hire, and permitted him to receive 17 into the church on Hutchinson Circuit. C. C. Engelbart was gladdened by the regeneration of 21 and the reception of 20 into the church on Sherburn Mission. A. Zabel had a harvest of 20 souls on Morristown Mission, and received 21 into the church. Preston charge had 13 conversions, Racine 10, Mound Prairie 11, Zion 10, Odessa

10, Paynesville 17, Maple Grove 10, Pipestone 10, Luverne 14, Sleepy Eye 19.

There was a total of 440 conversions and 370 accessions. The total membership now went over the seven thousand mark and reached 7065.

The greatest undertaking in the line of building was the erection of the large, modern, well-aranged church on Emerson Avenue, North, near Twentieth, in Minneapolis. The Sixth Avenue and Highland Park congregations had been merged into one, and this new church erected about midway between both. F. R. Plantikow was the pastor at the time. The property cost about $21,000. On one side of the church a parsonage for the pastor was built, and on the other side one for the Presiding Elder. The whole constitutes one of the finest and most valuable properties of our conference.

Under the supervision of E. H. Bollenbach a new, practical church was built in New Ulm, in a good location. The next year a well arranged parsonage was built under the direction and help of J. H. Muehlhausen, on the church lot.

The old church at Acoma, on Hutchinson Circuit, having burned down, a substantial new one was erected on the same site. H. Isker was the pastor.

At Cliffton, seven miles from Marshall, a neat country church was built under the supervision of G. W. Hielscher.

It is a significant fact that larger, costlier and better arranged churches are being built in our conference. This indicates progress in the work and hope for the future.

Conference Session, 1906

For the first time the conference met in the thrifty village of Sleepy Eye. The surrounding country is quite level. The soil is a rich, black earth. The farmers are thrifty. Here, on Thursday, May 3, 1906, Bishop Bowman took the chair and opened the session with devotional exercises. His opening address was comprehensive and to the point.

He appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose J. Graeben, G. A. Lippert and A. Geyman as assistants.

In the Ranks

M. Gagstetter died during the year at Hutchinson, and F. C. Schmidt at Blue Earth. Both had preached in the conference for

many years and were very successful and well liked. A memorial service was held on Saturday morning, at which J. G. Simon fittingly spoke on the life and character of M. Gagstetter, and J. Kienholz on that of F. C. Schmidt.

Max Wordelman of Sherburn was licensed to preach.

A. R. Zick and C. C. Stettbacher were advanced to the order of deacon and received into the itinerancy.

Leonhart Reep of the Iowa Conference was received into the itinerancy of our conference as an itinerant elder.

H. C. Schmidt of the Iowa Conference had settled down in Pipestone and was entered in the lists of this conference as a local preacher.

L. S. Stapf had continued ill during the year and was able to do but little work on the district. Part of the time he was very near death. The ministers on his district changed off in holding the quarterly meetings. He, therefore, resigned as Presiding Elder. J. M. Baitinger was re-elected as Presiding Elder, and A. H. Utzinger was elected in place of Brother Stapf.

H. Plantikow was elected as delegate to the Board of Missions.

Salaries

The conference thought that the salaries of the ministers should be raised. The Finance Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

Preachers on probation shall have not less than $350 per year.
Deacons shall have not less than $450 per year.
Elders, the first two years, shall have not less than $550 per year.
Elders, after their second year, shall have not less than $650 per year.
Presiding Elders shall have not less than $750 per year.

Quarterly conferences shall have the right to raise the salary of their ministers beyond the above schedule.

The ministers were now paid more money, but in most cases the extra contributions of provisions diminished or ceased entirely.

Attorney

Since the conference has more or less legal business connected with the purchase and conveying of real estate, it thought it wise to designate an attorney for this work. *John C. Zehnder*, a member of our church in St. Paul, was appointed for the position. He has done this work since then to the entire satisfaction of the

conference as a donation to the work. He merits the approval and confidence of the conference and Evangelical people in general.

Boundaries

There were no significant changes made. Courtland was called New Ulm Mission. It again received its early name.

Appointments

The bishop read the appointments on Saturday forenoon at 11:30 o'clock.

St. Paul District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, C. F. Kachel
St. Paul, Winifred St., G. Spaeth
East Prairie, C. W. Wolthausen
Le Sueur Center, to be supplied
Farmington, R. M. Mueller
Kasson, Aug. Huelster
Rochester, A. G. Sahr
Racine, F. P. Werner
Preston, P. A. Lang
Faribault, C. A. Tesch
St. Charles, G. A. Lippert
Waseca, J. Gongoll
Morristown, A. R. Zick
Hammond, J. Graeben
Winona, A. Geyman
Mound Prairie, W. Walter
Buffalo Lake, G. Britzius
Chaska, J. G. Simon
Princeton, J. L. Stegner

Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, F. R. Plantikow
Maple Grove, G. H. Schaefer
Olivia, G. Duebendorf
Danube, L. Reep
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Crow River, D. Groenig
Paynesville, S. B. Goetz
Zion, F. W. Tesch
St. Cloud, L. Passer
Rice, J. D. Moede
Brainerd, H. A. Seder
Wadena, E. H. Bollenbach
Deer Creek, F. R. Riedel
Fergus Falls, F. F. Arndt
Alexandria, E. Helmer
Odessa, A. Zabel
Appleton, F. W. Siebel
Duluth, B. R. Wiener
Bemidji, C. C. Stettbacher
South Haven, F. Moede
Emily, to be supplied

Mankato District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Mankato, R. C. Mittelstadt and M Wordelman
Blue Earth Circuit, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Station, M. Schoenleben
Wells, A. Reeck
Rice Lake, H. Hensel
Le Sueur, J. Manthey
New Ulm, J. M. Muehlhausen
Sleepy Eye, O. Schultz
Redwood, C. F. Sydow
Lamberton, F. G. Sahr
Fairmont, C. W. Sydow
Sherburn, C. C. Engelbart
Worthington, G. G. Schmid
Luverne, K. Meckel
Pipestone, G. J. Krienke
Marshall, G. W. Hielscher
Wabasso, B. Simon
Hendricks, C. G. Roesti

As the years passed by and the work turned more into the English language the stationing of the ministers became more

difficult. By this time there were quite a number of fields which wanted and needed some English preaching, and there were still many ministers in the active ranks who could not use the English in the pulpit. Care had to be exercised to send men to the fields demanding the use of the English in their services who could preach in that language. Those who could not use that language were, therefore, restricted to the entirely German fields. At the time of this session all the ministers could handle the *German* language well, and a little over one-half could preach in the English language, and of these latter only about 50 per cent were real proficient in the language. But as more young men entered the conference, all of whom practically used the American language well, the difficulty of supplying English-speaking pastors to the fields which demanded them diminished.

Worship

We have quite a spiritual people at Sleepy Eye, and it was a pleasure to worship with them. A. H. Utzinger preached on Monday evening, A. Huelster on Tuesday evening, Rev. N. A. Palmer, Superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, spoke on Wednesday evening, J. Wellner on Thursday evening, J. H. Lamb on Friday evening, and T. C. Meckel on Saturday evening.

At 9:30 on Sunday morning G. W. Hielscher led a consecration meeting. At 10 Bishop Bowman preached an unctuous ordination sermon on 2 Cor. 3: 9. His theme was: The Glory of the Ministry. In the afternoon he ordained the brethren Zick and Stettbacher. This was followed by a missionary service, conducted by T. C. Meckel, at which $1600 was laid upon the altar of the Lord. In the evening the bishop preached again, using the English language, to a vast audience. Not all could get into the church.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on Saturday evening.

The business of the conference had been finished on Saturday afternoon. Many of the ministers left Sleepy Eye during the sleepy hours of Sunday night to hasten home, to bring the glad (or sad) tidings to their loved ones.

Between the Conference Sessions, 1906-1907

The number of conversions decreased, being only 372 this year. G. W. Hielscher had 35 conversions and 30 accessions on

1906

Marshall Mission; P. A. Lang had 35 regenerations and received 21 into the church on Preston Circuit; F. G. Sahr had 28 souls saved and 23 new members on Lamberton Circuit; C. A. Tesch had 27 conversions and accessions on Faribault Circuit. The Lord gave G. G. Schmid 25 souls for his hire and 24 for the church. B. Simon had a harvest of 22 souls for Christ and 12 for the church on Wabasso Mission; the hearts of the Odessa people, where A. Zabel was pastor, were gladdened by 21 conversions and 19 accessions. G. Britzius had 11 conversions, R. M. Mueller 10, F. P. Werner 19, J. Gongoll 17, S. B. Goetz 12, F. W. Tesch 11, H. Hensel 11 and A. Reeck 12.

Some thoughtful readers might ask, how it happened that some charges, from which so many conversions were reported for a number of years, soon after dwindled down to very weak fields. There are various causes. Some fields lost many members by moving away; on others the conversions were superficial, and the church lost severely through backsliders; on still others different isms crept in and led many away from the church.

There was not much activity in the line of church building. In the village of Lamberton, under the efficient supervision of F. G. Sahr, a practical, new church was built. Bishop Horn dedicated it. The church seven miles south of Jackson was improved at a cost of $750. C. C. Engelbart was the pastor.

Fortieth Session, 1907

With this session the Minnesota Conference closed forty years of work for the Lord Jesus Christ. This time it met in the beautiful city of Faribault. Bishop S. C. Breyfogel had appeared in due time to preside. He opened the conference with fervent devotional exercises. In connection therewith the communion services were held.

The same secretaries served as at the previous session.

The Personnel

A. G. Sahr, a faithful servant of God, well liked by his parishioners and successful on all of his fields, was called to his eternal reward. Suitable resolutions were passed and a memorial service held on Saturday afternoon.

F. R. Riedel was ordained as elder. There were no others to ordain.

B. R. Wiener did not take a field, but went out as evangelist. He moved to Naperville, Illinois.

Conrad Nauman of the Washington Conference took work in this conference.

To the General Conference, which was to meet in the fall, at Milwaukee, Wis., H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger, J. M. Baitinger, F. R. Plantikow and C. W. Sydow were elected delegates. Since by this time the Evangelical Association had sanctioned lay representation at the General Conference, J. H. Burmester and A. Schoch were elected lay delegates.

Boundaries

It was not necessary to make significant changes in the make-up of the fields.

Cherry Grove was detached from Preston again, and since then has existed as a separate charge.

The name of Bemidji Mission was changed to Pequot. Emily Mission was discontinued. Fairmont and Sherburn were united into one and called Fairmont Mission.

Where They Were Sent

St. Paul District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.	*Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.*
St. Paul, Pine Street, C. F. Kachel	Minneapolis, F. R. Plantikow
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Spaeth	Maple Grove, G. H. Schaefer
East Prairie, C. W. Wolthausen	Olivia, G. Duebendorf
Le Sueur Center, C. C. Stettbacher	Danube, L. Reep
Farmington, R. M. Mueller	Hutchinson, H. Isker
Kasson, A. Huelster	Crow River, D. Groenig
Rochester, S. R. Iwig	Paynesville, C. W. Sydow
Racine, F. P. Werner	Zion, F. W. Tesch
Preston, P. A. Lang	St. Cloud, L. Passer
Cherry Grove, J. D. Moede	Rice, F. R. Riedel
Faribault, C. A. Tesch	Brainerd, H. A. Seder
St. Charles, C. C. Engelbart	Wadena, E. H. Bollenbach
Waseca, J. Gongoll	Deer Creek, C. Nauman
Morristown, G. J. Krienke	Fergus Falls, F. F. Arndt
Hammond, J. Graeben	Alexandria, E. Helmer
Winona, A. Geyman	Odessa, A. Zabel
Mound Prairie, A. R. Zick	Appleton, R. R. Werner
Buffalo Lake, G. Britzius	Duluth, S. B. Goetz
Chaska, J. G. Simon	Pequot, P. R. Mueller
Princeton, J. L. Stegner	South Haven, F. Moede

1907

Mankato District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Mankato, R. C. Mittelstadt, M. Wordelman
Blue Earth Circuit, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Station, M. Schoenleben
Wells, A. Reeck
Rice Lake, H. Hensel
Le Sueur, J. Manthey
New Ulm, J. H. Muehlhausen
Sleepy Eye, G. W. Hielscher
Redwood, C. F. Sydow
Lamberton, F. G. Sahr
Fairmont, G. A. Lippert and H. C. Schmidt
Worthington, G. G. Schmid
Luverne, K. Meckel
Pipestone, W. Walter
Marshall, O. Schultz
Wabasso, B. Simon
Hendricks, C. G. Roesti

These appointments were read on Saturday afternoon.

Who Preached?

G. Britzius preached on Monday evening; C. W. Sydow on Tuesday evening; C. Hauser on Thursday evening. On Friday evening Bishop Breyfogel gave his renowned lecture on: "My Trip Around the World." On Saturday evening G. Johnson spoke on: "The Claims of Education," and T. C. Meckel on: "The Missionary Work of Our Church." On Sunday the services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church, which was much larger than ours. It was filled to its capacity three times. In the forenoon Bishop Breyfogel preached a wonderful ordination sermon on Acts 2: 4. The missionary meeting immediately followed, conducted by T. C. Meckel. The sum of $2140 was pledged for the cause of missions.

In the afternoon the bishop ordained F. R. Riedel. Following this the bishop called all the ministers upon the platform, where they sang "The King's Business," facing the vast audience. A spiritual thrill went through every heart as the ministers allowed the Holy Spirit to ordain each one anew for the great work of saving souls. Thereupon a blessed testimony meeting was held. In the evening the bishop preached once more, but in the English language. Thus closed another blessed conference session, and with new resolves the ministers departed to do their best for their Lord.

At Work, 1907-1908

There were a number of good revivals held. One of the best was on Redwood Circuit, where C. F. Sydow was the shepherd, which resulted in 26 conversions and 17 accessions. F. W. Tesch had good meetings on Zion Circuit, at which 20 souls were saved

and 20 received into the church. Buffalo Lake charge had 12 conversions, Faribault 16, Morristown 16, Pine Street 10, Winifred Street 11, Waseca 14, Appleton 21, Crow River 16, Danube 16, Odessa 15, Blue Earth Station 16, Blue Earth Circuit 16, Lamberton 19 and Sleepy Eye 11. Other charges had less, but at all the members were quickened.

Building

In West Winona, under the labors of A. Geyman, the church was materially enlarged and modernized at a cost of $4970. In Faribault the old church was sold and moved away, and a fine, well arranged, spacious, new church built on the old site at a cost of $10,740, C. A. Tesch being the pastor. At Hutchinson the old church was much enlarged under the labors of H. Isker at an expense of $2871. H. Hensel supervised the enlarging and improving of the church at Rice Lake at a cost of $2850. In Fergus Falls an old church was bought near the heart of the city. These were all splendid improvements. These churches have become the birthplace of many immortal souls.

Conference Session, 1908

Preston, in the south-eastern part of the state, situated among the hills, an early Evangelical point, was the gathering place of the men of God for their annual session in May, 1908. The genial Bishop Horn presided. During the opening services the presence of the Lord was felt. The communion service was an especially blessed season of fellowship.

The chairman appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary, who chose J. Graeben, G. W. Hielscher and C. A. Tesch as his assistants.

Revising the Lists

J. G. Drehmel, a veteran of the conference, had withdrawn during the year.

R. C. Mittelstadt could not be present on account of having undergone an operation.

The brethren Huelster and Spaeth practically located at this session, for they never again entered the active ranks.

F. J. Knuth, from the United Evangelical Church, took work in our conference.

1908

H. F. Schlaak entered the work in our conference, having come from the German Methodists.

August L. Prodoehl and Henry E. Soltau were licensed to preach, but the former never really entered the work of the ministry, and the latter joined the English Methodists.

R. R. Werner and M. Wordelman were advanced to the order of deacon and received into the itinerancy.

A. R. Zick was voted his order as elder.

H. Plantikow's term as Presiding Elder had expired, and he was re-elected.

J. M. Baitinger was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Fraternal Delegates

After the division the two Evangelical factions were very much estranged. Each side said hard things about the other, and they would have no fellowship whatever with each other. This extreme attitude wore off after some years, and the ministers began to greet each other and converse together. It so happened that two Presiding Elders, F. A. Frase of the United Evangelical Church, and A. H. Utzinger of the Evangelical Association, rode in the same coach on a railroad train and got acquainted with each other. They soon began to talk about the "church trouble" and its consequences. Both regretted that such a calamity had befallen the Evangelical Association, and expressed the desire that a closer relation might be established. Thereupon Utzinger suggested that Frase present to his conference (which met in annual session soon after) the feasibility of sending a fraternal delegate to our conference. Brother Frase skillfully presented the matter, and the North-Western Conference of the United Evangelical Church elected Emil Mueller as delegate. He arrived in Preston in due time. The writer was quite solicitous about how our conference would treat him. He realized that he had risked quite a dangerous step to invite them to send us a fraternal delegate. To his great satisfaction Rev. Mueller was cordially received and heartily welcomed. His address before our body made a favorable impression, and we responded by electing F. R. Plantikow in the same capacity to his conference, where he was well received. This interchange of fraternal delegates continued for several years. M. Schoenleben, H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger and others represented our conference at theirs at different times.

1908

Salary Question

From the beginning until now the conference had established various schedules of salary, which the fields were asked to raise. A poor, inefficient pastor received just as much as a capable and successful one. At this session a change was made. The conference recommended that the quarterly conference of each field at its last session in the year state how much salary it would raise for the next year. At the first session of the following year it should determine how much salary their pastor should have. For missionaries an appropriation of missionary money should be made by a committee consisting of the Presiding Elders and one minister of each district and the bishop. The bishop has never served on this committee. A year or two later this plan was amended by a minimum salary schedule, that is, no pastor was to receive less than a stated sum, but might receive as much more as the field would be pleased to give. This plan has worked quite satisfactorily until the present time.

Student Fund

As it became increasingly necessary that young men should obtain a good education before they entered the ministry, it became more difficult to secure candidates for it. The cost of an education became so great that many young men thought that they could not secure the means to obtain it, or else did not want to make so great a sacrifice, knowing that their remuneration would be small, and it would take years for them to get out of debt. A. H. Utzinger therefore devised a plan, which was adopted, whereby the conference would assist needy students in securing an education. A fund was to be raised, called the Student Fund, from which money could be loaned, without interest, to theological students, until they had graduated and entered the ministry. After they began to preach they were to pay back this money on the installment plan. This plan was recently changed; the conference giving each seminary student a certain sum of money annually.

Appointments

On Monday forenoon the bishop read the stationing report. It shows where each minister worked during the following year.

St. Paul District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, M. Schoenleben
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Duebendorf
South St. Paul Mission, J. G. Simon
East Prairie, L. Passer
Le Sueur Center, E. Helmer
Farmington, R. M. Mueller
Kasson, H. A. Seder
Rochester, S. R. Iwig
Racine, F. P. Werner
Preston, P. A. Lang
Cherry Grove, to be supplied
Faribault, C. A. Tesch
St. Charles, C. C. Engelbart
Waseca, C. W. Wolthausen
Morristown, G. J. Krienke
Hammond, W. Walter
Winona, A. Geyman
Mound Prairie, A. R. Zick
Buffalo Lake, F. W. Tesch
Princeton, J. Graeben

Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, F. R. Plantikow
Maple Grove, M. Wordelman
Olivia, J. Gongoll
Danube, L. Reep
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Crow River, J. Manthey
Paynesville, C. W. Sydow
Zion, G. H. Schaefer
St. Cloud, G. A. Lippert
Rice, F .R. Riedel
Brainerd, D. Groenig
Wadena, E. H. Bollenbach
Deer Creek, C. Nauman
Fergus Falls, F. F. Arndt
Alexandria, H. F. Schlaak
Odessa, A. Zabel
Appleton, R. R. Werner
Duluth, S. B. Goetz
South Haven, F. J. Knuth
Pequot, to be supplied

Mankato District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Mankato, R. C. Mittelstadt and P. R. Mueller
Blue Earth Circuit, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Station, C. F. Kachel
Wells, A. Reeck
Rice Lake, H. Hensel
Le Sueur, F. G. Sahr
New Ulm, J. H. Muehlhausen
Sleepy Eye, G. W. Hielscher
Redwood, C. F. Sydow
Lamberton, B. Simon
Fairmont, G. Britzius and H. C. Schmidt
Worthington, G. G. Schmid
Luverne, C. C. Stettbacher
Pipestone, K. Meckel
Marshall, O. Schultz
Wabasso, J. D. Moede
Hendricks, C. G. Roesti

Worship

On Wednesday evening O. Schultz preached; on Thursday evening F. W. Umbreit; on Friday evening Bishop Horn, and on Saturday evening George Johnson. On Sunday forenoon Bishop Horn preached a glorious ordination sermon on 1 Cor. 4: 1, 2. In the afternoon he ordained the three men who had been voted their orders. He was followed by F. W. Umbreit, who spoke on the cause of education. After this George Johnson led the missionary meeting. In the evening the bishop gave us another good sermon. He preached in the English language in the Opera House to a large concourse of people. On Monday forenoon the session closed.

1908

There were no missionary subscriptions taken at this session. The method of raising the missionary money was changed. Each field was assessed $1.25 per member. This did away with the heavy strain put upon the congregation which entertained the conference, and worked well. To J. M. Baitinger belongs most of the credit for this plan.

In the Field, 1908-1909

There were only 303 conversions in the whole conference this year. Some pastors reported a goodly number, and others less. Usually the conversions secured in the union meetings of an outside evangelist do not hold out in the Evangelical Association. In that way often many members are secured, but they have built on the sand and cannot stand the storms of life. They do not harmonize with the spirit and life of our church and, sooner or later, leave or have to be dropped from our membership lists. We cannot long keep members who have not made a real experience of religion unless we lower our standard of life. As a rule, those who were converted in the meetings conducted by our own pastors prove our most loyal and efficient members. May our church standard never be lowered, and may we never become worldly!

The membership of our conference now amounted to 7124. F. W. Tesch reported 24 conversions, H. A. Seder 29, M. Schoenleben 10, G. Duebendorf 23, A. Geyman 32, S. B. Goetz 15, C. B. Frank 14, F. G. Sahr 10, H. Hensel 25.

In Pequot a church was built, and in Fergus Falls a parsonage was bought.

Forty-Second Session, 1909

It was the first time that our conference met in Hutchinson. Many of our ministers had been in this city occasionally to help hold meetings or otherwise. All the pastors who served Hutchinson Circuit said that it was a splendid field, and, undoubtedly, many who never got there secretly wished that they might be sent there sometime during their ministerial career.

Bishop Breyfogel came to hold the conference. He opened the session on Thursday, May 6, 1909, with fervent devotional exercises and an excellent address. The Lord's Supper was administered, during which time the presence of the Lord himself was realized.

1909

The chairman appointed G. Duebendorf as secretary again, and he chose G. W. Hielscher, M. Schoenleben and C. A. Tesch as his asssistants.

Among the Workers

C. E. Borchardt, E. F. Brand, A. A. Schendel, F. W. Schendel, M. O. Siewert and E. O. Werner were licensed as preachers on probation.

C. B. Frank, P. R. Mueller and H. C. Schmidt were received into the itinerancy and voted their orders as deacons.

C. Nauman was received into our itinerancy, and F. J. Knuth was received from the United Evangelical Church.

Henry Soltau was given credentials to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. W. Jonas was present as fraternal delegate from the United Evangelical Church. He delivered a very conciliatory address which was well received. He referred to conditions as they existed years ago when relations were strained, and was thankful that fraternal relations existed again.

Congo Resolutions

For some years the Belgians, under the authority of King Leopold, had committed terrible atrocities in the Congo State of Western Africa. M. Schoenleben introduced resolutions which the conference adopted, which condemned the cruel practices of said king, and requested our government to do all it could to put a stop to those abuses.

The Hospital

Considerable time was spent in discussing the Hospital question. After due deliberation the conference decided not to build a hospital, but, instead, recommended that a Hospital Society might be formed by the ministers and members of St. Paul and elsewhere, who were so inclined, for the purpose of carrying out such a project. By this action the conference put this question beyond its jurisdiction. A Hospital and Deaconess Society was formed, a hospital purchased in West St. Paul and called "The West Side General Hospital."

Knoll's Library

Rev. M. Knoll of the Iowa Conference had requested that his library be sent to the Minnesota Conference after his departure, to

be distributed gratis among those who needed and wanted such books. That was quite a help to the younger men who, as yet, had a small library.

Lay Representation

The question of lay representation in our conference had been laid before the quarterly conferences by the presiding elders and been defeated by a vote of 36 to 20. By this action lay representation was deferred for four years.

Time Limit

The Discipline of the Evangelical Association has from the beginning contained a provision limiting the time a minister may remain on a field. He is stationed for one year at a time, but, if the Stationing Committee sees fit, he may be sent to the same field as often as the Discipline permits. During the first years of the church the time limit was two years, that is, a minister could be stationed on the same field two successive times, for a year each time. Later the time limit was changed to three years. The ministers then thought that was quite an improvement. Next it was changed to four years. That was still better, for it became possible for some ministers to remain on a field four years without moving. At this session (1909) it was permissible to send a minister to his field for a fifth year. An exception to the rule had been made the previous year by sending F. P. Werner for a fifth year to Racine. The law, permitting a man to remain five years on a field, had received enough votes by that time to make it constitutional, but not all the conferences had voted on it, and it had not been declared a law yet by the bishops. Seven pastors were sent to their fields for the fifth year at this session.

In 1918 a provision, changing the time limit to seven years, became effective. That seems a long time to remain on one field at a time to the older ministers.

Boundaries

Crow River Circuit was named Mayer Circuit. Since then the old familiar name Crow River has become obsolete in our conference. Amboy and St. Clair were detached from Mankato and constituted Amboy Mission. Sherburn and Jackson were taken from Fairmont Mission and named Sherburn Mission.

1909

Appointments

On Saturday evening the bishop read the appointments to an expectant throng of people. They were as follows:

St. Paul District—J. M. Baitinger, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, M. Schoenleben
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. Duebendorf
South St. Paul, J. G. Simon
East Prairie, L. Passer
Le Sueur Center, E. Helmer
Farmington, R. M. Mueller
Kasson, H. A. Seder
Rochester, S. R. Iwig
Racine, G. J. Krienke
Preston, P. A. Lang
Cherry Grove, F. R. Wolter
Faribault, C. A. Tesch
St. Charles, C. C. Engelbart
Waseca, C. W. Wolthausen
Morristown, H. C. Schmidt
Hammond, W. Walter
Winona, A. Geyman
Mound Prairie, A. R. Zick
Buffalo Lake, F. P. Werner
Princeton, J. Graeben

Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Minneapolis, F. R. Plantikow
Maple Grove, M. Wordelman
Danube, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, H. Isker
Mayer, J. Manthey
Paynesville, C. W. Sydow
Zion, G. H. Schaefer
St. Cloud, G. A. Lippert
Rice, to be supplied
Brainerd, D. Groenig
Wadena, E. H. Bollenbach
Deer Creek, C. Nauman
Fergus Falls, F. F. Arndt
Alexandria, to be supplied
Odessa, A. Zabel
Appleton, R. R. Werner
Duluth, S. B. Goetz
South Haven, F. J. Knuth
Pequot, C. B. Frank

Mankato District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Mankato, R. C. Mittelstadt
Amboy, P. R. Mueller
Blue Earth Circuit, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Station, C. F. Kachel
Wells, A. Reeck
Rice Lake, H. Hensel
Le Sueur, F. G. Sahr
New Ulm, C. G. Roesti
Sleepy Eye, G. W. Hielscher
Redwood, C. F. Sydow
Lamberton, B. Simon
Fairmont, G. Britzius
Sherburn, H. F. Schlaak
Worthington, G. G. Schmid
Luverne, C. C. Stettbacher
Pipestone, K. Meckel
Marshall, O. Schultz
Wabasso, J. D. Moede
Hendricks, M. O. Siewert

Care of the Spiritual Life

The ministers were quite excited during this session, so that it was difficult to fix the mind firmly on spiritual things. A. Zabel preached on Wednesday evening, George Johnson on Thursday evening, F. W. Umbreit on Friday evening and A. J. Voegelein on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning Bishop Breyfogel preached a good ordination sermon on Matt. 28: 19 and 20. In

the afternoon he ordained three young brethren. George Johnson followed with an inspiring missionary address. In the evening the bishop preached in the English language in the Opera House to a vast concourse of people. He swept the whole audience with him.

Thus closed another memorable session of the Minnesota Conference, and the ministers went home with the prayer in their hearts that God might overrule all for the good of his cause and give all a blessed, successful year.

On the Fields, 1909-1910

The number of conversions increased to 464. The whole number of members now was 7338.

Odessa Circuit stood at the head of the list with 61 conversions and 54 accessions. A. Zabel was the pastor. J. Gongoll led 39 souls to Christ and received 40 into the church on Olivia Circuit. M. Wordelman reported 35 regenerations and 27 new members from Maple Grove. The Lord gave C. F. Sydow 28 souls for his hire and 25 for the church on Redwood Circuit. On Danube Mission F. R. Riedel led 27 to accept Christ as their Saviour and received 20 into the church. G. G. Schmid from Worthington Mission reported 24 conversions and 22 accessions. A. R. Zick had 12 conversions, C. W. Wolthausen 20, C. Nauman 15, H. Isker 11, E. H. Bollenbach 10, P. R. Mueller 21, W. A. Juedes 18. Some of the revival meetings were conducted by evangelists.

A new church was built at Pleasant Corners, on Kasson Circuit, in place of the old one which was set on fire by a stroke of lightning and burned to the ground. This new church cost $6500.

The old Olivia church was sold and a new one built at an expense of $6957. H. A. Seder had charge of the former project and J. Gongoll of the latter.

Forty-Third Session, 1910

In the beautiful city of Olivia the ministers were met at the station as they arrived by the smiling face of J. Gongoll and some of his parishioners, to be assigned to their quarters. The conference met in the beautiful and commodious new church on Thursday morning, May 5, 1910, under the chairmanship of Bishop Thomas Bowman, D. D. Fervent devotional exercises, a blessed communion

service and a strong opening address featured the beginning of this session. All the preliminary meetings had already been held.

The chairman appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose as his assistants G. W. Hielscher, R. C. Mittelstadt and A. Geyman.

The Workers

F. G. Sahr, F. W. Siebel and Sister Aug. Knebel had been called to their eternal rest during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed and a memorial service held on Saturday morning, at which G. W. Hielscher spoke on the life of F. G. Sahr; A. Reeck on that of F. W. Siebel, and Bishop Bowman on that of Sister Knebel. The conference choir sang several suitable songs.

A. Huelster took his credentials to the California, and J. J. Boelter his to the Washington Conference.

H. F. Schlaak was received into the itinerancy and voted his order as deacon.

R. R. Werner and M. Wordelman were advanced to the order of elder.

Lewis Steeley, from the Christian Holiness Church, was received into this conference in the relation of a local deacon.

Rev. D. C. Hauck, fraternal delegate of the United Evangelical Church, delivered a very appropriate address, which was responded to by M. Schoenleben, who represented our conference at the session of the United Evangelical Conference.

The term of J. M. Baitinger and A. H. Utzinger as Presiding Elders had expired. A. H. Utzinger was re-elected and M. Schoenleben was newly elected to that office.

New Examination Plan

At the session of the Examining Board the previous year H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger and R. M. Mueller were appointed a committee to revise our old examination plan. This committee delegated the task to A. H. Utzinger. A plan was worked out and presented to the conference and adopted by it, according to which each examiner was assigned two or more subjects in which he was to examine all the students who were required to take those subjects. This committee was also requested to nominate the examiners. The following were nominated and elected: K. Meckel, G. W. Hielscher, A. H. Utzinger, H. Plantikow, G. A. Lippert, M. Schoenleben, F. P. Werner, J. M. Baitinger, C. A. Tesch, A. Geyman,

P. A. Lang, R. M. Mueller and G. G. Schmid. Nearly all of them were required to examine students in either the German or the English language. The Presiding Elders were constituted a standing committee to nominate candidates for vacancies and for the renewal of the board. The examiners are elected for a term of four years.

Federation

F. R. Plantikow presented the following resolution:

"Whereas we have several barren appointments and missions, where other denominations of the same doctrine and polity with us also have such, and

Whereas it would be desirable to make a mutual exchange of the work at such places, therefore be it resolved:

That this conference appoint a commission on federation, consisting of the three Presiding Elders and two other members of the conference, appointed by the chairman, whose duty it shall be to confer with like commissions of other denominations concerning such exchanges, and to report to the conference."

This resolution was adopted. The commission consisted of the Presiding Elders, H. Plantikow, Utzinger and Schoenleben, and F. R. Plantikow and J. M. Baitinger.

The commission made several efforts to federate appointments with the United Evangelical and with the German Methodist Conferences, but they all signally failed. The federation plan was tried with the United Evangelical Church one year at Morristown and then dropped, but later revived again.

Stationing

The bishop read the appointments on Saturday evening before the preaching of the sermon.

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

St. Paul, Pine Street, S. B. Goetz
St. Paul, Winifred Street, C. A. Tesch
South St. Paul, to be supplied
East Prairie, H. Isker
Le Sueur Center, E. Helmer
Farmington, H. Hensel
Kasson, H. A. Seder
Rochester, to be supplied
Racine, C. B. Frank
Preston, H. C. Schmidt
Cherry Grove, L. Steeley
Faribault, R. M. Mueller
St. Charles, C. C. Engelbart
Waseca, C. W. Wolthausen
Morristown, to be supplied
Hammond, W. Walter
Winona, F. R. Plantikow
Mound Prairie, A. R. Zick
Buffalo Lake, F. P. Werner
Meriden, L. Passer
Montrose, F. R. Wolter

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Minneapolis District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Minneapolis, A. Geyman
Maple Grove, G. Britzius
Olivia, J. Gongoll
Danube, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, P. A. Lang
Mayer, J. Manthey
Paynesville, C. W. Sydow
Zion, G. A. Lippert
St. Cloud, F. F. Arndt
Rice, to be supplied
Brainerd, D. Groenig
Wadena, E. H. Bollenbach
Deer Creek, C. Nauman
Fergus Falls, M. Wordelman
Alexandria, to be supplied
Odessa, A. Zabel
Appleton, C. C. Stettbacher
Duluth, R. R. Werner
South Haven, F. J. Knuth
Pequot, to be supplied

Mankato District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Mankato, R. C. Mittelstadt
Amboy, P. R. Mueller
Blue Earth Circuit, W. A. Juedes
Blue Earth Station, C. F. Kachel
Wells, A. Reeck
Rice Lake, C. F. Sydow
Le Sueur, F. Moede
New Ulm, C. G. Roesti
Sleepy Eye, G. W. Hielscher
Redwood, G. J. Krienke
Lamberton, B. Simon and supply
Fairmont, G. H. Schaefer
Sherburn, H. F. Schlaak
Worthington, G. G. Schmid
Luverne, O. Brose
Pipestone, K. Meckel
Marshall, O. Schultz
Wabasso, J. D. Moede
Hendricks, to be supplied

Spiritual Activity

C. Nauman preached on Tuesday evening, M. Schoenleben on Wednesday evening, T. C. Meckel on Thursday evening, F. W. Umbreit on Friday evening, and C. Hauser on Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the bishop preached a timely ordination sermon on 2 Cor. 3: 9. In the afternoon he ordained three young ministers. Following this ceremony he gave an inspiring missionary address. The evening service was held in the Armory at Olivia. The bishop preached in the English language to a large throng of people. Our bishops always make a hit with the people of other churches when we have union meetings on conference Sunday evening.

Thus closed another important conference session. The ministers thanked the good people of Olivia for their splendid hospitality and hastened homeward. All earthly gatherings come to an end, and people part again. In heaven it will be different. There there will be no parting. That meeting lasts forever.

Review of the Work, 1910-1911

The increase in our church at this time is limited almost entirely to the youth of our church. It is hard for us to reach

strangers. Other and stronger churches are represented in every locality, and people who care to attend religious services go to those of the denomination in which they were raised. It is a rare occurrence for us to win a Catholic, or a Lutheran, or a Baptist, etc., family. We cannot even hold all the children of our own parents because some of them drift into the world and others into other churches. Then, again, we insist on conversion and a holy life, while some churches let their bars down so low that any sinner can be a member of them.

A mistake of our church is, that it limits its soul-saving campaign to a few weeks' effort in the winter. Revivals ought to last all the year.

Hutchinson Circuit, with P. A. Lang as pastor, headed the list this year with 36 conversions and 37 accessions. Next came Paynesville, with C. W. Sydow as its energetic pastor, with 20 regenerations and 15 new members. Buffalo Lake had 17 conversions, Faribault 14, Meriden 12, Appleton 12, Danube 19, Minneapolis 14, South Haven 15, Wadena 12, Amboy 11.

Under the energetic supervision of F. R. Riedel a new church was built at Osceola and a parsonage in Danube. A. Zabel supervised the building of a fine new church in Bellingham. Both of these churches were dedicated by Bishop Bowman. It St. Clair a house was bought for a parsonage and extensively repaired. It stood next to our church there.

Annual Meet, 1911

For the fourth time the Emanuel's Congregation of Blue Earth Circuit entertained the conference. They somehow got used to it. The church is large enough and the people could afford it. The conference met on Thursday morning, May 4, 1911. A new bishop served as chairman. He was personally known to most of the ministers, for he had visited our conference before and served as principal speaker at various conventions and camp meetings. He was best known as the efficient editor of the *Evangelical Messenger*. It was Bishop Samuel P. Spreng. He was elected to the episcopacy at the General Conference held at Milwaukee in 1907. He is a powerful and an eloquent preacher. He presided very acceptably at this session. Keen interest was taken in the opening exercises. Every word spoken by the new bishop was kindly received. The Lord's Supper was celebrated in a reverent

manner. The Lord was nigh unto his people. The opening address made a deep impression.

The chairman appointed G. Duebendorf again as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher, R. C. Mittelstadt, A. Geyman, C. Nauman and K. Meckel as his assistants.

The brethren T. C. Meckel, C. Hauser, A. J. Voegelein, F. C. Neitz, W. A. Schutte, W. Jonas and J. J. Hoffman were present in an official capacity and addressed the conference at various times in the interest of the causes they represented.

Revising the Lists

Rev. F. Emde, one of the pioneer ministers of the conference, had died during the year in the state of Washington.

Herman E. Mueller and Herman H. Georgius were licensed to preach.

O. Brose and L. Steeley were received into the itinerancy.

H. C. Schmidt and P. R. Mueller were voted their orders as elders.

C. W. Wolthausen and E. Helmer requested credentials for the Washington Conference, and G. G. Schmid for the California Conference. By this our conference lost three useful young ministers.

W. Jonas, of the United Evangelical Church, addressed the conference as fraternal delegate of his conference in well chosen words and made a good impression. F. R. Plantikow responded in a fitting way.

As delegates to the General Conference, to be held in October at Cleveland, Ohio, M. Schoenleben, H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger, F. R. Plantikow and J. M. Baitinger were elected. J. H. Burmester of Wells and J. J. Meyer of Wadena were elected lay delegates to the same.

Mutual Benefit Society

At the session of the conference in 1910 A. H. Utzinger presented a plan for gathering a fund for the support of old ministers and of ministers' widows. This plan was referred to the Finance Committee, which was to consider it well during the year and report at the next session. J. Gongoll, the chairman of the committee, took a deep interest in the matter and made an exhaustive study thereof. He reported a constitution for such a society at this session, but little changed from the original plan. After a thor-

ough discussion the conference adopted this constitution and had all the machinery ready for putting the plan into effect. At the General Conference in the fall Bishop Breyfogel presented a similar plan, called the Superannuation Fund, for the whole church in America, which was adopted and put in execution. Therefore our Minnesota plan came to naught, and we joined in with the Superannuation Fund. About one-half of our ministers joined it. All young ministers must join it before they can be received into the itinerancy. It is a good thing for superannuated ministers.

Envelope System

From 6 to 10 conference collections were held on each appointment every year. Often the results were very meager. An envelope system was inaugurated, by which all collections were taken at once. It worked much better. The conference urged that it should be introduced on all fields.

Boundaries

Steinkes was changed from Hendricks to Pipestone.

Gary was added to Appleton Mission.

Amboy was named St. Clair Mission.

Gethsemane was taken from St. Cloud and added to South Haven.

Rice Mission was discontinued and the appointments added to St. Cloud.

Pequot was added to Brainerd.

Montrose was put to Mayer again.

Princeton was united with South St. Paul.

Le Sueur Center was added to Morristown Mission.

Wilson was taken from Winona and added to Mound Prairie.

Stationing

The worthy bishop read the appointments on Saturday evening after the preaching service.

Mankato District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. H. Schaefer
Blue Earth Station, C. F. Kachel
Fairmont, J. Manthey
Hendricks, to be supplied
Lamberton, B. Simon
Le Sueur, F. Moede
Luverne, O. Brose
Mankato, G. H. Siebold
Marshall, O. Schultz
New Ulm, F. W. Tesch
Pipestone, K. Meckel
Redwood, G. J. Krienke
Rice Lake, C. F. Sydow
St. Clair, J. D. Moede

Sleepy Eye, G. W. Hielscher
Sherburn, C. C. Stettbacher
Wabasso, C. C. Engelbart
Wells, E. H. Bollenbach,
Worthington, H. H. Georgius

Minneapolis District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Alexandria, to be supplied
Appleton, H. F. Schlaak
Brainerd, A. Zabel
Danube, F. R. Riedel
Deer Creek, C. Nauman
Duluth, R. R. Werner
Fergus Falls, M. Wordelman
Hutchinson, P. A. Lang
Maple Grove, G. Britzius
Mayer, R. C. Mittelstadt
Minneapolis, A. Geyman
Odessa, W. A. Juedes
Olivia, J. Gongoll
Paynesville, C. W. Sydow
St. Cloud, F. F. Arndt
South Minneapolis, to be supplied
South Haven, F. J. Knuth
Wadena, P. R. Mueller
Zion, D. Groenig

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, F. P. Werner
Cherry Grove. L. Steeley
East Prairie, H. Isker
Farmington, H. Hensel
Faribault, R. M. Mueller
Hammond, W. Walter
Kasson, H. A. Seder
Meriden, L. Passer
Mound Prairie, C. G. Roesti
Morristown, E. F. Brandt
Preston, H. C. Schmidt
Racine, C. B. Frank
Rochester, A. R. Zick
St. Paul, Pine Street, S. B. Goetz
St. Paul, Winifred Street, C. A. Tesch
South St. Paul, J. L. Stegner
St. Charles, to be supplied
Waseca, A. Reeck
Winona, F. R. Plantikow

Worship

D. Groenig preached on Tuesday evening; O. Brose on Wednesday; A. J. Voegelein on Thursday; Bishop Spreng on Friday, and W. A. Schutte on Saturday evening.

On Sunday morning Bishop S. P. Spreng preached a powerful ordination sermon on the theme: The Model Sermon. He rather preached though on the Holy Ghost. It was great. Immediately following the sermon he ordained the brethren H. C. Schmidt and P. R. Mueller as elders. The afternoon was given to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Emanuel's Society, in whose church the conference was holding its session. J. Manthey, a spiritual son of this church, and J. Kienholz, who had served this field at an early day, and also again at a later date, gave interesting addresses. A. H. Utzinger, a former pastor, presented the history of this congregation from the beginning. A jubilee offering was then taken. In the evening the bishop gave an interesting and profitable address on his recent trip to Japan and China.

This closed another conference session. With varied feelings the brethren left Blue Earth, going in different directions to their

homes, taking along deep impressions from what they had seen and heard.

Gathering in the Sheaves, 1911-1912

We find that C. F. Kachel reported 68 conversions from Blue Earth Station and received 39 into the church. Lewis Steeley had 55 conversions and 10 accessions on Cherry Grove Circuit. C. C. Engelbart rejoiced over 36 souls saved and 36 received into the church. J. M. Baitinger and R. C. Mittelstadt had 28 conversions at Mayer and received 27 new members. A. Zabel led 25 souls to an acceptance of Christ and gave the hand of church fellowship to 17 at Brainerd. Kasson charge had 18 conversions, Morristown 19, Winifred Street 13, Waseca 13, Deer Creek 13, Fergus Falls 19, Odessa 16, Paynesville 11, St. Cloud 18, Blue Earth Circuit 10, St. Clair 16 and Wells 10.

In all there were 508 conversions and 394 accessions. The total membership amounted to 7441. Blue Earth Station stood at the head of the list with 317 members; next came Odessa with 303; Paynesville with 284, Hutchinson with 241, Minneapolis with 238, Zion with 226, Buffalo Lake with 218, and Olivia with 216.

At Rochester our people had to sell their church lot to the School District and move the church and parsonage to a new location. Both were much improved. The total cost of the undertaking was $7729.

The good people at Bellingham had the misfortune to have their beautiful new church burn down only a few months after it was dedicated. Under the efficient leadership of W. A. Juedes they built another new church as good, or better, than the one which burned to ashes. At Middle Creek, on Redwood Circuit, under the supervision of G. H. Krienke, a splendid new church was built in place of the old, costing $7854. M. Schoenleben had the district house at Mankato improved to the amount of $996.

Forty-Fifth Session, 1912

After an intermission of 25 years, the Evangelical ministers were privileged to meet in Minneapolis, the metropolis of the state, again, in the large, modern, new church. A. Geyman, the genial pastor, and the good people of Minneapolis, had carefully prepared everything necessary for the comfort of the conference. The clergy was cordially received and royally entertained. In an auto-

mobile procession they were given an opportunity to see the sights of the city.

Bishop Wm. Horn was on hand promptly to call the conference to order at 9 A. M., Thursday, May 2, 1912. After the usual preliminary opening exercises he appointed R. M. Mueller as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher, K. Meckel and P. A. Lang as his assistants. The reader will notice that a new secretary was appointed. Brother Duebendorf had been secretary for seventeen consecutive sessions, holding the record in point of service in that capacity.

Revising the Lists

F. R. Wolter had withdrawn from the church.

Death had entered five ministerial homes. The brethren W. F. Lenz, A. Reeck and J. G. Simon were called to receive their crown of glory, and Mrs. A. H. Utzinger and Mrs. A. Geyman triumphantly finished their earthly career. Suitable resolutions were passed and a memorial service held on Saturday evening, at which F. Moede spoke on the life of Brother Simon, J. M. Baitinger on that of Brother Lenz, W. A. Juedes on that of Brother Reeck, J. Gongoll on that of Sister Utzinger, and F. R. Plantikow on that of Sister Geyman. These addresses were a tribute which the departed truly deserved.

O. Schultz, who had been a faithful worker in our ranks for many years, called for credentials to the Oregon Conference.

G. J. Krienke retired from the active ranks and located at Hutchinson.

Herbert S. Frank was licensed to preach.

P. Schott, who came from the Iowa Conference, and G. H. Siebold were received into the itinerancy.

C. B. Frank was ordained as elder on Sunday afternoon.

H. Plantikow was elected for his third term as Presiding Elder.

H. Bunse

It was the rare privilege of Herman Bunse to have completed fifty years in the ministry. This was recognized by the conference in the following resolution:

"Whereas our highly esteemed Brother H. Bunse celebrates his fiftieth anniversary as minister of the Gospel in the Evangelical Association, therefore be it resolved:

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1. That, as a conference, we thank God that he has granted his servant the rare privilege of being engaged so long a time in preaching the Gospel.

2. That we wish him God's choicest blessings for the future and a quiet evening of life."

On Thursday evening a jubilee service was held, at which C. W. Sydow spoke fittingly on the work of Brother Bunse, and J. Graeben read an original poem. Brother Bunse feelingly responded and praised the goodness of his God, and told how he had wonderfully sustained him during those fifty years.

F. A. Frase, fraternal delegate of the United Evangelical Church, addressed the conference, after having been warmly welcomed.

Sunday-School Secretary

For a number of years the conference had elected a Sunday-school secretary, whose duty it was to create a greater interest in the Sunday-school work in our bounds. Able young men were elected to this position, such as G. G. Schmid, G. J. Krienke, A. Zabel, J. D. Moede, etc.

Conference Journal

Since 1888 a Conference Journal had been published annually, but without any rules adopted by the conference to guide the editor or publisher. It was customary to elect the secretary for both offices. At this session A. H. Utzinger presented a set of rules governing the publishing of the Journal, which were adopted. The profits of its publication now flow into the Contingent Fund of the conference and produce a fair income.

At first the whole Journal was published entirely in the German language. For twenty years this was continued, until requests came in from fields where the English language prevailed that there should be a little consideration given them. Accordingly it was ordered in 1908 that the statistics, financial report, some lists and some explanations be printed in the English language. In 1912, in addition to the above, a condensed report of the proceedings was to be printed. In 1918 the whole Journal was published in the English language, there being no German in it. Thus we have seen how the use of the German language gradually decreased and that of the American increased.

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Boundaries

Alexandria Mission was discontinued and the appointments nominally added to St. Cloud and Wadena Missions. This was one of the old missions of the conference. The cause of its demise was a lack of ministers. It could not be supplied for several years, and, therefore, could not thrive. It was once in a flourishing condition.

A new mission was established in South Minneapolis. Because it could not be properly supplied, but little was accomplished at that time. A new mission was created in the Midway district of St. Paul. This was well supplied and proper attention given it by the conference, and it has had a gratifying growth.

Appointments

Bishop Horn read the appointments on Saturday evening, after the memorial services.

Mankato District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. H. Schaefer
Blue Earth Station, C. F. Kachel
Fairmont, J. Manthey
Lamberton, B. Simon
Le Sueur, H. Hensel
Luverne, O. Brose
Mankato, A. Schendel
Marshall and Hendricks, F. P. Werner
New Ulm, F. W. Tesch
Pipestone, K. Meckel
Redwood, G. W. Hielscher
Rice Lake, C. F. Sydow
St. Clair, J. D. Moede
Sleepy Eye, L. Reep
Sherburn, C. C. Stettbacher
Wabasso, C. C. Engelbart
Wells, E. H. Bollenbach
Worthington, H. H. Georgius

Minneapolis District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Appleton, H. F. Shlaak
Brainerd, A. Zabel
Danube, G. H. Siebold
Deer Creek, H. S. Frank
Duluth, R. R. Werner
Fergus Falls, M. Wordelman
Hutchinson, P. A. Lang
Maple Grove, G. Britzius
Mayer, R. C. Mittelstadt
Minneapolis, A. Geyman
Odessa, W. A. Juedes
Olivia, J. Gongoll
Paynesville, C. Nauman
St. Cloud, F. F. Arndt
South Minneapolis, J. M. Baitinger
South Haven, W. Walter
Wadena, P. R. Mueller
Zion, D. Groenig

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, P. Schott
Cherry Grove, L. Steeley
East Prairie, H. Isker
Farmington, F. R. Riedel
Faribault, R. M. Mueller
Hammond, F. J. Knuth
Isanti, to be supplied
Kasson, H. A. Seder
Meriden, L. Passer
Mound Prairie, C. G. Roesti
Morristown, E. F. Brandt
Preston, H. C. Schmidt

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Racine, C. B. Frank
Rochester, A. R. Zick
St. Paul, Pine Street, S. B. Goetz
St. Paul, Winifred Street, C. A. Tesch
St. Paul, Midway, to be supplied
St. Charles, W. J. Vetter
Waseca, C. W. Sydow
Winona, F. R. Plantikow

Religious Services

E. H. Bollenbach preached on Monday evening, P. A. Lang on Tuesday evening, H. Isker on Wednesday evening, Bishop Horn on Thursday evening. On Friday evening there was a Young People's Rally, at which F. W. Umbreit and J. H. Bauernfeind gave addresses.

P. A. Lang and A. Zabel spoke to the Sunday-school at 9:15 on Sunday morning. At 10 Bishop Horn preached a great ordination sermon on John the Baptist, using as his theme "The Voice in the Wilderness."

An ordination ceremony was conducted in the afternoon, after which T. C. Meckel conducted the missionary meeting. Brother Meckel preached in the evening in the English language to a large concourse of people. After this service the ministers bade each other good-by, and the next morning left for their homes.

Following Up the Workers, 1912-1913

F. R. Riedel reported 150 conversions and 137 accessions on Farmington Circuit; A. Zabel 55 conversions and 56 new members from Brainerd; A. Geyman 22 regenerations and 20 accessions from Minneapolis. B. Simon had 10 conversions, F. P. Werner 13, J. Gongoll 16, C. Nauman 14, D. Groenig 14, P. Schott 11, C. B. Frank 15, S. B. Goetz 10, and C. A. Tesch 12.

In Farmington the church was enlarged at a cost of $3200. In St. Clair a new church was built at an expense of $6600.

Forty-Sixth Session, 1913

The conference met in Waseca on Thursday, May 1, 1913. Bishop S. C. Breyfogel presided. He conducted the usual opening exercises. Then he appointed R. M. Mueller as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher, K. Meckel and P. A. Lang as his assistants.

Laymen

Lay representation at our annual conferences had been sanctioned by the General Conference and a sufficient number of annual conferences to become a law of the church. Enough quar-

terly conferences in our conference gave their approval to introduce it in our bounds. At this session lay delegates were present for the first time. Twelve delegates were entitled to a seat in the conference. Those present were: J. H. Burmester of Wells, C. Gongoll of Mayer, J. C. Zehnder of St. Paul, H. W. Wolf of Faribault, J. C. Wegner of Minneapolis, F. Kissner of Sleepy Eye, A. A. Juliar of St. Clair, G. H. Kowalke of Pipestone, J. von Eschen of Odessa, H. Habein of Waseca.

Among the Ranks

The Lord called home the brethren J. L. Stegner and C. W. Sydow, and Sister S. B. Goetz. Sympathetic resolutions were passed and a memorial service held on Saturday afternnon, at which B. Simon spoke on the life of Brother Stegner; J. Gongoll on that of C. W. Sydow, and H. Plantikow on that of Sister Goetz.

Frederick W. Hauser of Sleepy Eye, Lewis Strothman of Pleasant Corner, and Ernst Groenig of Zion, were licensed to preach.

E. F. Brandt and H. H. Georgius were advanced to the order of deacon, and H. F. Schlaak to that of elder.

F. A. Frase, H. H. Georgius, E. F. Brandt were received into the itinerancy.

A. J. Iwan and W. J. Vetter returned to our conference after an absence of some years. C. F. Mayer had come during the year from the Texas Conference.

G. J. Krienke, P. R. Mueller and L. Steeley called for credentials, which were given them.

Rev. D. C. Hauck, fraternal delegate of the United Evangelical Church, addressed the conference on church union. Resolutions endorsing his sentiments were passed.

Boundaries

Osceola was transferred from Danube Mission to Olivia Circuit, and Salem's Church was taken from Olivia and added to Danube, and Danube charge constituted a circuit.

Fairpoint was added to Kasson.

Prairieville was taken from Faribault and added to East Prairie, which was advanced to a circuit and called Kenyon Circuit.

Meriden was added to Morristown.

A Le Sueur Center Mission was formed.

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The Stationing

The Bishop read the appointments on Monday afternoon at 6 o'clock.

Mankato District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. H. Schaefer
Blue Earth Station, A. Geyman
Fairmont, J. Manthey
Lamberton, F. W. Tesch
Le Sueur, H. Hensel
Luverne, Otto Brose
Marshall and Hendricks, F. P. Werner
Mankato, A. A. Schendel
New Ulm, R. C. Mittelstadt
Pipestone, H. H. Georgius
Redwood, G. W. Hielscher
Rice Lake, C. F. Sydow
St. Clair, J. D. Moede
Sleepy Eye, L. Reep
Sherburn, C. C. Stettbacher
Wabasso, C. C. Engelbart
Wells, F. A. Frase
Worthington, E. F. Brand

Minneapolis District—A. H. Utzinger, P. E.

Appleton, W. J. Vetter
Brainerd, A. Zabel
Danube, G. H. Siebold
Deer Creek, G. Herbold
Duluth, R. R. Werner
Fergus Falls, M. Wordelman
Hutchinson, J. Gongoll
Maple Grove, G. Britzius
Mayer, B. Simon
Minneapolis, C. Nauman
Odessa, W. A. Juedes
Olivia, S. B. Geotz
Paynesville, C. F. Kachel
St. Cloud, F. F. Arndt
South Minneapolis, J. M. Baitinger
South Haven, W. Walter
Wadena, K. Meckel
Zion, D. Groenig

St. Paul District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, P. Schott
Cherry Grove, to be supplied
Kenyon, H. Isker
Farmington, F. R. Riedel
Faribault, R. M. Mueller
Hammond, F. J. Knuth
Isanti, J. Kienholz
Kasson, H. C. Schmidt
Le Sueur Center, supply
Mound Prairie, C. G. Roesti
Morristown, F. W. Schendel
Preston, H. A. Seder
Racine, C. B. Frank
Rochester, A. R. Zick
St. Paul, Pine Street, P. A. Lang
St. Paul, Winifred, E. H. Bollenbach
St. Paul, Midway, E. D. Groenig
St. Charles, H. F. Schlaak
Waseca, C. F. Mayer
Winona, F. R. Plantikow

A. H. Nauman was secured soon after conference to serve Cherry Grove. F. W. Schendel, of Morristown, also served Le Sueur Center.

On account of a lack of men the stationing was very difficult.

Worship

J. H. Bauernfeind preached on Thursday evening. On Friday evening, at the Young People's Alliance Rally, F. W. Umbreit and George Johnson gave addresses. F. W. Umbreit preached on

Saturday evening. On Sunday morning the bishop preached an inspiring ordination sermon. In the afternoon he conducted the ordination ceremonies. George Johnson followed with an able missionary address. In the evening the bishop preached in the English language to a vast and appreciative audience.

At the Work, 1913-1914

A number of successful revivals were held on various fields. H. H. Georgius rejoiced over 33 souls led to Christ and 26 received into the church on Pipestone Mission. F. W. Tesch, on Lamberton Circuit, saw 30 souls accept their Saviour and 36 join the church. On Olivia Circuit S. B. Goetz had 29 conversions and 24 accessions. L. Reep, on Sleepy Eye Station, was rewarded for his efforts by 28 regenerations and 21 new members. On Zion Circuit the Lord gave Brother Groenig 25 souls for his hire, and 26 for the church. C. F. Mayer was privileged to lead 23 souls to Christ and receive 9 into the church on Waseca Circuit. On Deer Creek Mission, G. P. Herbold led 20 souls to accept their Saviour and 10 to join the church. Blue Earth Station had 16 conversions, Wabasso charge 11, Worthington 10, Fergus Falls 10, Maple Grove 16, Buffalo Lake 12, and Pine Street 12.

During the year three important churches were erected. In Fergus Falls the old church had been destroyed by a cyclone on July 8, 1912. It took considerable persuasion to induce the people to rebuild. Finally they decided to go ahead. Brother Wordelman was their energetic pastor. A neat, brick-veneered church was built on the old site. Bishop Breyfogel dedicated it.

At Paynesville the old church was too small. C. Nauman got the people to undertake to build a large, modern, new church. Before much headway had been made the pastors were changed, C. F. Kachel being stationed there. He and his wide-awake building committee pushed the project along. Bishop Breyfogel also officiated at this dedication.

In the Midway district of St. Paul Calvary church was built, under the supervision of E. D. Groenig and H. Plantikow, P. E.

ANNUAL MEET, 1914

Twenty-five years had passed into eternity, and great changes taken place, since the conference had met in the St. Paul, Winifred Street Church. The older men had either gone to their eternal

reward, or had retired from active ranks, waiting for their final promotion. Bishop Thomas Bowman was present, and presided for the fourteenth, and his last time, over the deliberations of our conference. Bishop Escher had presided thirteen times at the sessions of the Minnesota Conference, so Bishop Bowman went him one better. But it should be added here that Bishop Escher presided several times at the sessions of the Iowa Conference, while the work in Minnesota belonged to it. In connection with the opening exercises the Lord's Supper was celebrated.

The chairman appointed R. M. Mueller again as secretary, who requested his former assistants to help him again.

Changes in the Ranks

Sister J. Manthey had been called home during the year. She was remembered by resolutions and a memorial service.

Albert H. Nauman, of Waseca, and Emil C. Kreitlow, of Montrose, were licensed as preachers on probation.

H. S. Frank, H. E. Mueller and A. A. Schendel were advanced to the order of deacon.

A. A. Schendel, H. E. Mueller, H. S. Frank, G. P. Herbold and G. F. Hack were received into the itinerancy.

G. F. Hack and F. A. Mundt came from the Wisconsin Conference to take work in ours.

F. R. Plantikow, who had served 37 years in this conference, was appointed Presiding Elder of the Washington Conference by the Board of Bishops, and took leave of his old conference at this session.

Emil Mueller, fraternal delegate of the United Evangelical Church, addressed the conference in his happy mood. A. H. Utzinger, who had been delegate to the United Evangelical Conference, responded.

The terms of A. H. Utzinger and M. Schoenleben as Presiding Elders had expired. M. Schoenleben was re-elected and E. H. Bollenbach was newly elected.

Education

The lay delegates offered a set of resolutions, in which they called attention to the importance of our denominational educational institutions, and urged upon our members the duty of supporting them better financially. These resolutions were gladly adopted.

1914

Bible

The following resolution was passed:

Whereas there is a movement on foot to reinstate the Bible into our public schools, therefore be it

Resolved, that we, the ministers of the Minnesota Conference, pledge our moral support, and will do all we can to further this movement.

Boundaries

Elmore had been thrown several times, like a ball, from Blue Earth Circuit to Blue Earth Station and back again. This time it went to Blue Earth Circuit.

Le Sueur Center Mission was discontinued, and the appointments joined to Le Sueur Mission.

Bellingham was taken from Odessa Circuit and constituted a mission.

Pequot Mission was restored.

Cherry Grove was advanced to a station.

New Trier was detached from Farmington Circuit and called Randolph Mission.

Duluth was transferred from Minneapolis to St. Paul District.

Appointments

On Monday forenoon, at 11 o'clock, the Bishop read the report of the Stationing Committee as follows:

Mankato District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, R. C. Mittelstadt
Blue Earth Station, A. Geyman
Fairmont, J. Manthey
Le Sueur, E. Werner
Luverne, Otto Brose
Marshall and Hendricks, F. P. Werner
Mankato, A. A. Schendel
New Ulm, C. F. Mayer
Pipestone, H. H. Georgius
Redwood, J. D. Moede
Rice Lake, C. F. Sydow
St. Clair, G. F. Hack
Sleepy Eye, L. Reep
Sherburn, C. C. Stettbacher
Wabasso, C. C. Engelbart
Wells, F. A. Frase
Worthington, E. F. Brand

Minneapolis District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Appleton, W. J. Vetter
Brainerd, A. Zabel
Bellingham, C. A. Tesch
Danube, F. F. Arndt
Deer Creek, F. A. Mundt
Fergus Falls, R. R. Werner
Hutchinson, J. Gongoll
Maple Grove, G. Britzius
Mayer, B. Simon
Minneapolis, C. Nauman
Odessa, P. Schott
Olivia, S. B. Goetz
Paynesville, C. F. Kachel

Pequot, G. P. Herbold
St. Cloud, W. A. Juedes
South Minneapolis, H. S. Frank
South Haven, W. Walter
Wadena, K. Meckel
Zion, D. Groenig

St. Paul District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, M. Wordelman
Cherry Grove, A. H. Nauman
Duluth, C. B. Frank
Kenyon, H. Isker
Farmington and Randolph, F. R. Riedel and supply
Faribault, R. M. Mueller
Hammond, F. J. Knuth
Isanti, J. Kienholz
Kasson, H. C. Schmidt
Mound Prairie, C. G. Roesti
Morristown, F. W. Schendel
Preston, H. A. Seder
Racine, H. E. Mueller
Rochester, A. R. Zick
St. Paul, Pine Street, P. A. Lang
St. Paul, Winifred, G. W. Hielscher
St. Paul, Calvary, E. D. Groenig
St. Charles, H. F. Schlaak
Waseca, G. H. Siebold
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

H. S. Frank was transferred from S. Minneapolis to Fergus Falls during the year.

Worship

All the religious services were seasons of blessings. On Thursday evening G. Heinmiller preached, on Friday evening a Young People's Rally was held, at which Editor Heinmiller and Editor Kramer gave addresses. On Saturday evening A. L. Hauser spoke about the Western Old People's Home, located at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and F. W. Umbreit on our educational institutions at Naperville, Illinois. The Sunday-school, on Sunday morning, was addressed by A. Zabel and J. D. Moede. The bishop preached a masterly ordination sermon, at 10, to a large concourse of people. In the afternoon he ordained three young ministers. T. C. Meckel followed with an inspiring missionary address. In the evening Bishop Bowman delivered one of his great sermons in the English language.

Thus closed the 47th session of the Minnesota Conference. The pastors bade farewell to their hosts, who had so royally entertained them, and to each other, with the resolve in their hearts to do still better in the new year than ever before. Some went home to "pack up" and move to new fields, and others to take up the work on the old.

In the Field, 1914-1915

A large number of conversions were reported this year. The largest number came from Brainerd, 110, where A. Zabel was the pastor. He had also 119 accessions. J. M. Baitinger as evangelist

had 84 conversions on Blue Earth, 61 on Lamberton Circuit, 43 on Paynesville Circuit. C. F. Sydow had 47 regenerations and 49 accessions on Rice Lake Circuit. W. G. Vetter (with E. P. Mankofsky) had 43 conversions and 49 accessions on Appleton Mission. C. A. Tesch had 41 conversions at Bellingham. A. Geyman had 21, H. Georgius 21, G. F. Hack 15, C. B. Frank 13, R. R. Werner and H. S. Frank 30, J. Gongoll 11, S. B. Goetz 13, G. P. Herbold 11, D. Groenig 21, M. Wordelman 24, A. H. Nauman 10, H. C. Schmidt 11. The whole number of conversions amounted to 778, and of accessions to 623, bringing the total membership up to 7864.

At Kenyon a neat, new church was built at a cost of $5500. In Brainerd the church was enlarged and improved at a cost of $4854.50. At Grafton, on Buffalo Lake Circuit, the church was enlarged at an expense of $3234.

Conference Session, 1915

The ministers, at the close of their year's work, turned their faces toward Paynesville, where the conference convened in the large new church. It had met in the near vicinity five times in the past, but never in the village itself. Bishop Spreng was present as chairman and opened the session with devout spiritual exercises. His opening address was full of good advice. The conference met on Wednesday afternoon, May 5, 1915.

The same brethren served as secretaries as at the previous session.

Among the Workers

E. J. Hielscher, J. H. Muehlhausen and E. H. Schmitz were transferred to their heavenly home during the year. Father Hielscher was one of the pioneers of the conference, and led many souls to his Saviour. Resolutions of respect and condolence were passed and a memorial service held, at which the bishop spoke words of cheer and sympathy. F. R. Plantikow had died in Washington.

B. Simon, one of the veterans of the conference, received his credentials for the Washington Conference. C. F. Mayer and A. J. Iwan were given their credentials to the Kansas and Dakota Conferences respectively.

A. Zabel was appointed as Superintendent of the Washington Conference by the Board of Bishops, and therefore took his leave from our midst.

1915

Arthur Riss was licensed as preacher on probation, and Jacob H. Wiener as local preacher.

H. C. Freitag, formerly of Zion, took work in our conference.

E. F. Brandt and G. P. Herbold were ordained as elders, and E. A. Werner, F. W. Schendel and A. H. Nauman as deacons by the bishop on Sunday afternoon.

E. H. Bollenbach was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

The next General Conference was to be held at Los Angeles, California. Since it was such a long distance, extra provision had to be made to meet the expenses. Each congregation was assessed 6 cents per member, and $15 was taken out of the Contingent Fund for each delegate.

E. H. Bollenbach, H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben, C. Nauman and R. M. Mueller were elected delegates. J. H. Burmester and J. J. Meyer were elected lay delegates, but they did not attend.

Bible Society

The General Conference of 1911 had organized a Bible Society, with the expectation that all the conferences would join it. Our conference took the necessary action at this time to join, and paid the money it held for said purpose into the general treasury.

Boundaries

There were no very important changes made. Sherburn Mission was called Jackson; Welcome was added to Fairmont; Nicollet was put to New Ulm; Amboy was constituted a mission; Lamberton village was constituted a mission.

Morristown was federated with the United Evangelical Church. A Meriden Mission was formed. Randolph Mission was named New Trier.

Stationing

The bishop was not prepared to read the appointments until Saturday evening. Quite a number of changes were made.

Mankato District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Amboy, J. Manthey
Blue Earth Circuit, R. C. Mittelstadt
Blue Earth Station, A. Geyman
Fairmont, L. Strothman
Jackson, W. J. Vetter
Lamberton, J. Gongoll
Lamberton Circuit, F. W. Tesch
Le Sueur, E. A. Werner
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall and Hendricks, F. P. Werner
Mankato, supplied by J. Manthey

New Ulm, H. F. Shlaak
Pipestone, H. H. Georgius
Redwood, J. D. Moede
Rice Lake, C. G. Roesti
St. Clair, G. F. Hack
Sleepy Eye, L. Reep
Wabasso, A. A. Schendel
Wells, O. Brose
Worthington, F. W. Hauser

Minneapolis District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Appleton, H. C. Freitag
Brainerd, E. F. Brand
Bellingham, C. A. Tesch
Danube, F. F. Arndt
Deer Creek, F. A. Mundt
Fergus Falls, R. R. Werner
Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Maple Grove, H. Isker
Mayer, supplied by J. Graeben
Minneapolis, C. Nauman
Odessa, P. Schott
Olivia, S. B. Goetz
Paynesville, C. F. Kachel
Pequot, G. P. Herbold
St. Cloud, W. A. Juedes
South Haven, W. Walter
Wadena, K. Meckel
Zion, D. Groenig

St. Paul District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, M. Wordelmann
Cherry Grove, A. H. Nauman
Duluth, C. B. Frank
Kenyon, C. F. Sydow
Farmington and New Trier, F. A. Frase and J. M. Baitinger
Faribault, A. R. Zick
Hammond, F. J. Knuth
Isanti, supplied by J. Kienholz
Kasson, H. C. Schmidt
Meriden, H. Hensel
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, to be federated
Preston, H. A. Seder
Racine, H. E. Mueller
Rochester, F. R. Riedel
St. Paul, Pine Street, P. A. Lang
St. Paul, Winifred Street, G. W. Hielscher
St. Paul, Calvary, H. S. Frank
St. Charles, supplied by S. R. Iwig
Waseca, G. H. Siebold
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

Worship

The large Evangelical membership in Paynesville and vicinity assured a large attendance at all of the religious services, as well as at the business sessions.

F. A. Mundt preached on Monday evening, L. Reep on Wednesday, F. C. Berger on Thursday, Prof. S. J. Gamertsfelder on Friday, and A. Zabel on Saturday evening. A. H. Nauman and P. A. Lang addressed the Sunday-school on Sunday morning. At 10 Bishop Spreng preached a powerful ordination sermon on Romans 1: 16. After the ordination ceremonies, in the afternoon, the bishop delivered an inspiring missionary address. In the evening he again filled the pulpit and delivered a powerful sermon to a large audience. It seemed as though all of Paynesville and the surrounding country had turned out. Showers of blessings came upon the powerful hosts of the Lord. Eternity alone can reveal the influence of such conference sessions.

Thus, on Sunday evening, closed another blessed session. Already during that night many of them departed for their homes. How anxious the men of God are to begin the labor of a new conference year!

Success in the Field, 1915-1916

J. M. Baitinger as evangelist had 76 conversions at Danube and 47 at Redwood; E. F. Brand 53 at Brainerd, H. C. Freitag 39 on Appleton Mission, F. W. Schendel 37 at Luverne, C. F. Sydow 29 on Kenyon Circuit, A. Geyman 14, E. A. Werner 18, F. P. Werner 12, S. B. Goetz 10, G. P. Herbold 19, C. B. Frank 13, H. E. Mueller 16, F. R. Riedel 11, G. W. Hielscher 12, H. S. Frank 12. Others reported less. The success of the men must not be measured by these figures. Each one should remain faithful unto the end and then receive his reward from God, who judges correctly. Learn to be patient and wait. God is just.

During the year a parsonage was built in Rochester and one bought in Bellingham. The church near Otter Tail was moved into the village.

FORTY-NINTH SESSION, 1916

This time the conference met in the beautiful, practical country church at Middle Creek, near North Redwood. This is historical ground, for here it was that in 1862 scores of Evangelical people were murdered by the savage Sioux Indians. Several Evangelical classes were wiped out with one stroke. But the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church. Several large congregations were gathered here again in the course of years. It was the first time that our conference met in this vicinity.

A new bishop was present to preside, namely, Bishop G. Heinmiller, who had been elevated to the episcopacy at the last General Conference. He presided with grace and dignity. He had been editor of the *Christliche Botschafter* for a long time. He opened the session with the usual devotional exercises and an episcopal address.

He appointed R. M. Mueller as secretary, who chose G. W. Hielscher, K. Meckel and P. A. Lang as his assistants.

Changes in the Personnel

Sisters E. J. Hielscher and F. Moede had been transferred from earth to heaven during the year. Their departure was fittingly observed by the conference.

No one asked for credentials, which was quite a relief.

Lorenz M. Adelman of Hanover, James Haueter of Madison, Harry A. Zieske of Sleepy Eye, and Ernst W. Matz of Rice Lake were licensed as preachers on probation.

H. E. Mueller and H. S. Frank were ordained as elders, and L. Strothman and A. J. Schmidt as deacons on Sunday afternoon, under the blessings of God.

M. O. Siewert was also voted his order as deacon.

L. Strothman was received into the itinerancy.

H. Plantikow was elected to his fourth term as presiding elder.

Jubilee

Since the next would be the *fiftieth* session of this conference, steps were taken to celebrate that event in a becoming manner. A Jubilee Committee was appointed, consisting of H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben, E. H. Bollenbach, R. M. Mueller, J. Gongoll, J. H. Burmester and Henry Yahn, who were to make preparations for this celebration. They reported:

1. That a jubilee celebration be held in connection with the next session of the conference.

2. That the committee prepare a suitable program during the year, and that A. H. Utzinger be requested to write a condensed history of the Minnesota Conference.

3. That a jubilee offering be taken during the year on all appointments for the work of the Minnesota Conference.

Budget Plan

The money for the various institutions and purposes of the church had been raised in various ways, for each separately. Some people were prejudiced against certain institutions and would slight the collections for them, and, consequently, they fell short in their income. A plan was evolved and adopted by the last General Conference, called the Budget Plan, by which the moneys needed to carry on the work should be pooled in one or two sums. All the estimates for the local church should together constitute the budget for the Current Fund, and all the benevolences of the whole church should be apportioned among the local societies in one sum. The duplex envelope system was recommended to all the societies.

Our conference at once adopted this plan and elected a Budget Committee consisting of H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben, E. H. Bollenbach, F. P. Werner, G. W. Hielscher, H. W. Wolf, H. Yahn, C. F. Kachel and P. A. Lang. This committee apportioned to each society what it should raise for benevolences and conference purposes. G. W. Hielscher was elected treasurer for the benevolences, and C. F. Kachel for the conference contributions. The plan has worked well so far, wherever the pastor and presiding elder vigorously advocated it.

Unoccupied Territory

To further the spreading of our work within our bounds, it was deemed advisable to appoint a commission on unoccupied territory, whose duty it would be to carry on an investigation to determine where new missions could be located. There were three men elected from each presiding elder district. The comsion elected were: H. Plantikow, A. Geyman, J. H. Burmester, E. H. Bollenbach, C. F. Kachel, F. A. Redman, M. Schoenleben, C. B. Frank and H. Yahn.

Boundaries

There were only a few minor changes made in the line of Boundaries.

Appointments

The new bishop read the appointments on Saturday evening after the religious services.

Mankato District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Amboy, J. Manthey
Blue Earth Circuit, R. C. Mittelstadt
Blue Earth Station, A. Geyman
Fairmont, L. Strothman
Hendricks, J. Haueter
Jackson, W. J. Vetter
Lamberton Circuit, F. W. Tesch
Lamberton Mission, J. Gongoll
Le Sueur, E. A. Werner
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall, H. H. Georgius
Mankato, M. O. Siewert
New Ulm, H. F. Schlaak
Pipestone, C. C. Engelbart
Redwood, J. D. Moede
Rice Lake, C. G. Roesti
St. Clair, H. A. Zieske
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, A. A. Schendel
Wells, Otto Brose
Worthington, F. W. Hauser

Minneapolis District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Appleton, H. C. Freitag
Brainerd, E. F. Brand
Bellingham, C. A. Tesch
Danube, F. F. Arndt
Deer Creek, G. F. Hack
Fergus Falls, D. Groenig

1916

Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Maple Grove, H. Isker
Mayer, L. Reep
Minneapolis, C. Nauman
Odessa, P. Schott
Olivia, S. B. Goetz
Paynesville, C. F. Kachel
Pequot, G. P. Herbold
St. Cloud, W. A. Juedes
South Haven, W. Walter
Wadena, K. Meckel
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, F. A. Mundt
Cherry Grove, A. H. Nauman
Duluth, C. B. Frank
Kenyon, C. F. Sydow
Farmington and New Trier, F. A. Frase and J. M. Baitinger
Faribault, A. R. Zick
Hammond, F. J. Knuth
Isanti, J. Kienholz
Kasson, H. C. Schmidt
Meriden, to be supplied
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, A. J. Smith
Preston, H. A. Seder
Racine, H. E. Mueller
Rochester, F. R. Riedel
St. Paul, Pine Street, P. A. Lang
St. Paul, Winifred, G. W. Hielscher
St. Paul, Calvary, H. S. Frank
St. Charles, to be supplied
Waseca, G. H. Siebold
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

S. R. Iwig served St. Charles, and H. Hensel, Meriden.

Worship

F. W. Schendel preached on Monday evening, F. A. Frase on Tuesday evening, Bishop Heinmiller on Wednesday evening, B. R. Wiener on Thursday evening, C. Hauser in the English language on Friday evening. F. W. Umbreit also gave an address on Friday evening on Education. On Saturday evening four former ministers of this field gave reminiscent addresses. They were: J. Manthey, F. Moede, H. Hensel and J. Kienholz.

Bishop Heinmiller preached a good ordination sermon on Sunday forenoon on Ephesians 3: 8. In the afternoon he conducted the ordination services. B. R. Wiener followed with a missionary address. During the time that Brother Wiener was speaking a storm came up, and the frightened people rushed from the church, and raced for their homes in their automobiles. Only a few remained in the church to hear the conclusion of the address. In the evening the bishop preached again to a smaller audience in the English language.

A new and strange spectacle was, to see so many automobiles around the church. There were over one hundred of them there on Sunday. People came from distant fields to attend the Sunday services. The church was packed full of people. Many could not get in.

Thus closed another session of the conference, bringing blessings to many hearts.

In the Harvest Field, 1916-1917

Quite a number of successful revival meetings were held during the year. A. J. Schmidt had 45 conversions at Morristown, C. B. Frank 30 at Duluth, W. Walter 27 at South Haven, H. H. Georgius 26 at Marshall, and 26 more at Hendricks, F. W. Hauser 24 at Worthington. R. C. Mittelstadt had 20 conversions, A. Geyman 13, F. W. Tesch 14, E. A. Werner 14, F. W. Schendel 19, A. A. Schendel 11, C. Nauman 16, S. B. Goetz 10, A. H. Nauman 12, A. R. Zick 11, P. A. Lang 14, G. W. Hielscher 10, and H. S. Frank 11.

Building

Calvary Church in St. Paul was improved to the amount of $936.

The church near Le Sueur Center was moved into the town and improved at a cost of $1299.

The East Prairie church was moved into Nerstrand and improved at an expense of $1970.

The church near Madison was practically built new, costing about $4100.

The church near South Haven was moved into the village at a cost of $911.

A fine, modern parsonage was built in Blue Earth, costing $4282, and one in Faribault at a cost of $3241.

Moving churches, which were built in the country, a mile or several from some town, into a village or city is an expensive undertaking, but a step in the right direction. The work of many a society has been hampered by a wrong location of the church. Other denominations were wiser and built in the towns and took our members.

JUBILEE SESSION, 1917

Fifty years ago, when Bishop Long had read the appointments of the Iowa Conference, in session at Grand View, Ia., the Minnesota Conference came into existence. Half a century it had worked for its Lord and Master. Many a sacrifice was made by its ministers and members; many a hard battle fought; disappointments borne patiently; perplexing questions answered; difficult problems solved, yet the Lord was with them and gave

them victory. There will be a great host of white-robed saints in heaven who will give credit to the Minnesota Conference of the Evangelical Association, next to God, for their salvation. No historian on earth can do justice to the heroism and faithfulness of these pioneers of the cross. Just reward is meted out to them when they are summoned before the great white throne of God. With our mind's eye we can see Wm. Stegner, von Wald, Brill, Strohmeier, John Schmitt, E. J. Hielscher, Emde, and others, with shining faces, surrounded by hosts of Evangelicals, waving their palms and singing the songs of the redeemed.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH, FARIBAULT, WHERE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CONFERENCE WAS CELEBRATED

The spiritual sons of those worthy Evangelical fathers met at Faribault on Wednesday afternoon, May 2, 1917, for their fiftieth annual session. Of the charter members only one, J. Kienholz,

was present, and still a member of the conference. Another, J. G. Drehmel, was present part of the time, but he had withdrawn from the church several years before. These were the only two of the twenty charter members still living.

Bishop S. P. Spreng had the privilege of presiding at this jubilee session. He opened the session with appropriate devotional exercises and an address on the theme, "The One Hundred Per Cent Efficiency Church."

Jubilee Journal

It was ordered to publish a Jubilee Journal, containing various cuts, a condensed history, compiled by A. H. Utzinger, and other items of interest. Every minister was to pay the double price for the Journals, and sell them at ten cents per copy.

A conference picture was taken, with the Faribault church for a background. A cut of this picture was used for the Journal. An enlarged photograph was produced by the artist and offered for sale.

Historian

A. H. Utzinger was elected Conference Historian and requested to furnish the copy for a "History of the Minnesota Conference," to be published in book form.

Official Records

For fifty years the proceedings of the conference had been recorded in the German language, and constituted the official record. The minutes of all of the auxiliary societies were also mostly recorded in the German language. At this session, a motion was adopted, that in the future the official records should be kept in the English language. The records of the second half century of this conference begin in the English language, and need not be translated.

The conference appointed M. Schoenleben and H. E. Mueller to translate the "Rules for Our Conference Sessions" and the Constitution of the Missionary Society into the English language.

Thus we see that the transition from the German to the English language has made great progress.

Revising the Lists

Sisters J. Graeben and G. F. Hack had passed to the glory land during the year. Suitable recognition thereof was taken by the conference.

D. Groenig, J. D. Moede and H. L. Holzgrafe were given credentials to the Washington Conference upon their own request. M. O. Siewert was recommended to the Dakota Conference.

G. A. Lippert returned from the Atlantic Conference.

Wesley Schneider, of Blue Earth, Alfred Nelson, of Madison, Edward Podoll, of Duluth, and Fred Miller, of South Haven, were licensed. The latter soon returned his license.

H. H. Georgius, E. A. Werner, F. W. Schendel, A. A. Schendel and C. C. Stettbacher were ordained as elders.

M. O. Siewert, F. W. Hauser, J. G. Heidinger and P. J. Schmidt were ordained as deacons.

J. G. Heidinger, A. J. Schmidt, F. W. Hauser, M. O. Siewert and H. C. Freitag were received into the itinerancy.

F. A. Mundt held and taught doctrines differing from those of the Evangelical Association and was, therefore, dismissed from the conference, upon his own request.

Prohibition

Our conference has always stood in the front ranks of the temperance and prohibition workers. The following resolution, unanimously adopted, is an indication of our attitude towards the liquor traffic during the past half century:

"It is with pleasure that we notice the advancement which the temperance cause has made in recent years. The splendid work which is being done by the various temperance organizations is commendable. The recent legislature, which has passed some helpful laws in regard to the abolition of the liquor traffic, and with a large majority, voted to submit a constitutional amendment for state-wide prohibition to be voted upon by the people of this state in 1918, is worthy of our support. We believe that, if there ever was a time when the Church of God should do its best to do away with the Liquor Traffic, that time is now. Therefore, we, as ministers and laymen of our church, pledge our hearty support and also cheerfully endorse the work of the Anti-Saloon League, which is leading the fight to make our state and nation dry."

Inventory

At the close of this fifty-year period an inventory of the conference should be taken. It had 66 itinerant and 13 local

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE, FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY, 1917

ON STEPS TO THE LEFT—LEFT ROW DOWN: E. F. Hack, Geo. Johnson, S. R. Ivie. SECOND ROW: F. W. Schendel, R. M. Mueller, A. A. Schendel, G. Bruns, A. Isker. ON STEPS TO THE RIGHT—LEFT ROW DOWN: W. J. Voller, C. C. Engelbert, A. I. Smith, A. P. Zick, J. Knudsen. SECOND ROW: C. F. Kasbar, H. F. Schlaak, Jake Wiener, H. H. Goergens. LEFT TO RIGHT—BACK ROW: B. B. Werner, H. S. Frank, L. Strassman, C. C. Stoltzfuss, F. R. Riedel, H. E. Mueller, F. P. Werner, E. A. Wurner, P. C. Mittelstadt, J. H. Hageman, H. Yahn, Wm. Arndt. SECOND ROW: Rahrt Hardt, G. H. Schaefer, C. F. Sydow, E. F. Brand, F. F. Arndt, H. C. Schmidt, H. C. Freitag, A. T. Nelson, H. W. Weil, W. Siegner, J. H. Burmeister, J. H. Schaefer, F. Kuchelagg. THIRD ROW: L. Roop, A. Seymaa, L. M. Dellinger, J. Haueter, F. W. Traub, D. A. Trunk, F. Schatt, F. A. Mundt, G. Stiffler, G. W. Hintscher, H. Meckel, M. A. Seiler, G. S. Reedt. FOURTH ROW: W. Wafler, W. A. Jacobs, L. S. Stier, F. J. Knuth, S. D. Davis, C. Neuman, E. H. Bollenbach, M. Schoenleber, Bishop S. P. Spreng, H. Pfeiffer, J. Eschbach, J. Engell, H. Hensel, F. S. Frank, J. Matthey. LOWER ROW: J. C. Zehnder, H. A. Zieske, J. G. Hellinger, C. D. Frank, G. P. Herbold, P. J. Smith, J. G. Mueller, P. A. Lang, A. H. Dittmer, S. H. Eichorst, D. C. Hauck, M. Wordelman, G. Duebendorf. LYING DOWN: F. W. Hauser.

preachers, and 7652 members, 117 organized church societies, the same number of church edifices, and 51 parsonages. It had 109 Sunday-schools with an enrollment of 10,187 persons, 76 catechism classes with 845 catechumens, 57 Senior Young People's Alliances with 1682 members and 21 Junior Alliances with 437 members, 20 Woman's Missionary Auxiliaries with 296 members. The estimated value of its churches and parsonages was $533,237. It owned a permanent Missionary Fund of $7462.62, and a Student Aid Fund of $1315. Its members subscribed for 1158 *Christliche Botschafters* and 698 *Evangelical Messengers*. It raised $108,232.37 for all purposes during the preceding year.

But this is not all. We helped build up the Dakota, Washington, Oregon, California, Canada (in the North-west) and other conferences, by giving them ministers and many members, and supporting them financially.

Boundaries

Amboy Mission was merged with St. Clair Mission. Kenyon Circuit was divided into Kenyon and Nerstrand Missions. Meriden Mission was merged into Morristown Mission. Faribault was advanced to a station. Wadena and Deer Creek Missions were united and called Wadena Circuit.

Appleton Mission was divided into Appleton and Madison Missions. The lack of ministers often necessitated changes in boundaries.

The northern half of our state is still unoccupied by our conference.

Appointments

Late Saturday evening the bishop read the appointments to an eager audience.

Mankato District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. W. Hielscher
Blue Earth Station, E. F. Brand
Fairmont, E. C. Kreitlow
Hendricks, Arthur Riss
Jackson, G. F. Hack
Lamberton Circuit, W. F. Tesch
Lamberton, J. Gongoll
Le Sueur, E. A. Werner
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall, H. H. Georgius
Mankato, E. Podoll
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes
Pipestone, C. C. Engelbart
Redwood, G. A. Lippert
Rice Lake, C. G. Roesti
St. Clair, H. A. Zieske
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, A. A. Schendel
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, F. W. Hauser

1917

Minneapolis District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.
Appleton, G. H. Schaefer
Brainerd, G. P. Herbold
Bellingham, S. B. Goetz
Danube, F. F. Arndt
Fergus Falls, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Maple Grove, H. Isker
Madison, H. C. Freitag
Mayer, F. J. Knuth
Minneapolis, C. Nauman
Odessa, P. Schott
Olivia, O. Brose
Paynesville, C. F. Kachel
Pequot, supplied by J. Haueter
St. Cloud, W. J. Vetter
South Haven, supplied by A. Nelson
Wadena, K. Meckel
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—M. Schoenleben, P. E.
Buffalo Lake, C. A. Tesch
Cherry Grove, L. Strothman
Duluth, C. B. Frank
Kenyon, G. H. Siebold
Farmington and New Trier, F. A. Frase and G. Britzius, supply
Faribault, A. R. Zick
Hammond, H. F. Schlaak
Isanti, supplied by J. Kienholz
Kasson, H. C. Schmidt
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, A. J. Schmidt
Nerstrand, P. J. Schmidt
Preston, C. F. Sydow
Racine, A. H. Nauman
Rochester, J. G. Heidinger
St. Paul, Pine Street, P. A. Lang
St. Paul, Winifred Street, H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, H. S. Frank
St. Charles, Wm. Walter
Waseca, H. A. Seder
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

Of the ministers here stationed only eight could not preach in the English language. There are only about that many fields in which all the work is still done in the German language.

Worship

A jubilee program was provided some months beforehand by the appointed committee for this occasion.

R. C. Mittelstadt preached an inspiring sermon on Tuesday evening. On Wednesday evening another blessed service was held. A. H. Utzinger read a condensed history of the work of the Evangelical Association in Minnnesota on Thursday evening.

On Friday evening J. Gongoll spoke on "Reminscences of the Departed Brethren." He said in part: "I am acquainted with the Evangelical Association 47 years. Forty-three years ago I attended a session of our conference for the first time. It was held at Quincy. There were about 17 ministers present. There are many more now. About 25 ministers and many lay members have died since then. Everything was small and primitive in those days, but now all is greater and more imposing. The fathers of our conference were honest, thorough and respected by the church and the world. They came from Germany, were convicted by the powerful

preaching and praying and soundly converted. They pressed through into eternal life. They were very thorough in their work. They abhorred shallowness in religious matters.

There was love among the members. A certain class leader brought charges against a member who was found guilty and put on probation for six months. To assuage the feelings of the disciplined man the class leader was put on probation for three months.

Their protracted meetings were times of great spiritual awakenings and joy. At a certain camp meeting a good brother was so overwhelmed with blessings that, when it closed, and he started for home, he walked three miles, leading his horse, before he noticed that he had forgotten the buggy. He then returned for it and was glad to meet the Christian friends again.

Those old pioneers made great sacrifices, went through severe hardships, and supported the church liberally. They were praying people, and had their closet of secret prayer. The ministers had their own mode of preaching, but delivered powerful sermons. At a district meeting A. Strohmeier was to preach the Sunday forenoon sermon. He took a walk by himself that morning, but, forgetting himself in meditation, walked too far. The people were assembled, waiting for the preacher. Finally, at 11 o'clock, he arrived and preached a most wonderful sermon.

The conference sessions were eminently spiritual. In 1879, when the conference met at Quincy for the second time, Bishop Escher opened the session with a powerful address. Thereupon Wm. Stegner arose and, in a touching response, pledged the conference to faithfulness to God and his work, and then they fell upon their knees and wrestled with God in prayer until the heavens descended upon them and they had a great victory. They had little machinery, but much power."

H. E. Mueller followed Brother Gongoll with an address on "The Sentiments of the Young Preachers Relative to Our Conference." He said in part: "The older ministers had long distances to travel, and at a slow rate. They risked their health; their salaries were small; they endured for the purpose of saving souls. The rapid growth of our conference in those years was due to the sacrifices of the fathers. Many things have changed. The ministry is more educated. But a spirit of skepticism is prevalent today, to meet which a man must be trained. The language in use has changed greatly. Only the German was used for many years,

but now the English tongue is spoken in many places, and often both German and English must be used in the same congregation.

Much has changed in the matter of Organization. Then there was only the class organization and the Sunday-school, while by this time the Young People's Alliance and other organizations have been added.

The fathers ventured much, but mostly only into rural communities. Now the important work is in the cities.

Though much has changed, yet we must remain the same in many things. The fathers were loyal to our church and our conference and the standards of Christ. We must also be loyal to these if we would succeed. We must have as much zeal as they had; must hold fast to the same doctrines. It must be our passion to save souls. We are not primarily in the work to gain members, but to save souls."

Saturday evening was devoted to various organizations of the church. W. Dehne spoke about the prayer meetings, C. B. Frank represented the Sunday-schools, P. A. Lang the Young People's Alliances, and Mrs. Emilie Baumann the women's organizations. These addresses were very interesting.

Sunday was the great day of the feast. The spacious church was overcrowded. People came from far and near with their automobiles. Bishop Spreng was at his best. His theme for the ordination sermon in the forenoon was "The Cross of Christ," based on Galatians 6: 14. "Showers of blessing" descended on the eager listeners. In the afternoon the bishop ordained five brethren as elders and four as deacons. Then George Johnson delivered an extraordinary missionary address. In the evening interesting and inspiring addresses were given by M. Schoenleben on "The Conservation of Our Evangelical Ideals," and by Bishop Spreng on "The Future of the Minnesota Conference."

Thus closed this blessed jubilee session of our conference. Fifty years of its existence are a thing of the past. God was with us and blessed our weak efforts. He will be with us in the future if we are faithful to him. Greater things are bound to come to pass in the next fifty years. The fathers have nearly all gone to their eternal reward. Three of those ministers present at the organization of the conference—H. Bunse, J. Kienholz and J. G. Drehmel—had the privilege to attend this session. Only Brother Kienholz was still in the active service. A few of the younger

brethren who were present may live to complete the second fifty years of our conference, and help celebrate its centennial. They will tell of greater changes, and look back upon our times as primitive. The fathers builded well, may their sons build still better and higher.

1917-1918

During this year a number of successful revival meetings were held, resulting in a total of 412 conversions and 402 accessions. From Wells 55 conversions were reported, from Waseca 43, Jackson 31, Fairmont 29, Rice Lake 11, Sleepy Eye 16, Brainerd 16, Bellingham 17, Mayer 14, Minneapolis 25, Zion 11, Faribault 10, Kasson 12, Morristown 20, Nerstrand 16, Racine 12, Rochester 19, Winifred Street 11, from other fields less.

Fifty-First Session, 1918

The brethren met in Zion Church on Lamberton Circuit, on May 1, 1918, at 2:00 P. M., in annual session. Bishop S. C. Breyfogel presided and opened the session in the usual way. The chairman appointed R. M. Mueller secretary, who chose K. Meckel, P. A. Lang and H. E. Mueller as his assistants. The official minutes were recorded in the English language for the first time.

C. Hauser, T. C. Meckel, J. H. Bauernfeind, C. Staebler, Geo. Johnson and A. L. Hauser were present to represent various institutions and organizations of the church.

Among the Ranks

H. Hensel, a veteran of the conference, had passed to the better world during the year. Sympathetic action concerning his death was taken by the conference.

Delmar C. Trapp of Pleasant Corner, Edward Zellmer of Danube, and Reuben H. Mueller were licensed as preachers on probation.

E. C. Kreitlow, E. W. Matz and H. A. Zieske were advanced to the order of deacon, and L. Strothman and A. J. Smith to the order of elder.

E. C. Kreitlow, E. W. Matz, H. A. Zieske and P. J. Smith were received into the itinerancy.

F. M. Ohms of the Illinois Conference was received into this conference as a local probationer.

1918

E. H. Bollenbach was elected as presiding elder for a second term, and C. F. Kachel newly, in place of M. Schoeneleben, whose second term had expired.

E. H. Bollenbach was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

J. Gongoll was on his own request superannuated, after having preached 44 consecutive years.

Appointments

On Saturday evening the Bishop disclosed the secrets of the Stationing Committee as to the appointments:

Mankato District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. W. Hielscher
Blue Earth Station, E. F. Brand
Fairmont, P. J. Smith
Hendricks, to be supplied
Jackson, C. G. Roesti
Lamberton Circuit, F. A. Frase
Lamberton Mission, M. Wordelman
Le Sueur, K. Meckel
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall, H. H. Georgius
Mankato, E. Podoll
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes
Pipestone, C. C. Engelbart
Redwood, G. A. Lippert
Rice Lake, H. C. Freitag
St. Clair, H. A. Zieske
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, F. F. Arndt
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, F. W. Hauser

Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Appleton, G. F. Hack
Brainerd, G. Herbold
Bellingham, S. B. Goetz
Danube, G. H. Schaefer
Fergus Falls, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Maple Grove, H. Isker
Madison, F. M. Ohms
Mayer, F. J. Knuth
Minneapolis, M. Schoenleben
Odessa, F. W. Tesch
Olivia, Otto Brose
Paynesville, P. A. Lang
Pequot, J. Haueter
St. Cloud, W. J. Vetter
South Haven, A. T. Nelson
Wadena, A. A. Schendel
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—C. F. Kachel, P. E.

Buffalo Lake, C. A. Tesch
Cherry Grove, L. Strothman
Duluth, E. C. Kreitlow
Kenyon, E. A. Werner
Farmington and New Trier, G. H. Siebold
Faribault, H. C. Schmidt
Hammond, H. F. Schlaak
Isanti, to be supplied
Kasson, C. Nauman
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, A. J. Smith
Preston, C. F. Sydow
Racine, A. H. Nauman
Rochester, J. G. Heidinger
St. Paul, Pine Street, C. B. Frank
St. Paul, Winifred St., H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, H. S. Frank
St. Charles, W. Walter
Waseca, H. A. Seder
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

1918

Worship

J. G. Heidinger, G. A. Lippert, J. H. Bauernfeind, T. C. Meckel preached during the week and C. Staebler addressed the Young People's Alliance meeting. Bishop Breyfogel preached on Sunday forenoon and evening and ordained the candidates for ordination in the afternoon. George Johnson gave an inspiring missionary address on Sunday afternoon. The conference adjourned on Sunday evening.

1918 to 1919

During the year a number of successful revival meetings were held, among the most fruitful of which were those of Blue Earth Station, Fairmont, Rice Lake, St. Clair, Appleton, Fergus Falls, Paynesville, St. Cloud, South Haven, Buffalo Lake, Duluth, Kenyon, Farmington, Faribault, Rochester, Pine Street and Winifred Street charges.

FIFTY-SECOND SESSION, 1919

Again the ministers and lay representatives assembled for the annual conference session. This time the conference convened in Salem's Church of the Zion Circuit. This was familiar ground to the older ministers, for they had met here in 1873, 1888 and 1904, and in the Zion Church nearby in 1882 and 1893. The conference convened on Wednesday, April 30, 1919, at 2:00 P. M. A new bishop occupied the chair, namely, L. H. Seager, who had been elected to the episcopacy at the last General Conference, which met in Los Angeles, Calif. In a set of resolutions, offered by M. Schoenleben, he was welcomed as chairman of our conference. The opening exercises were very spiritual and instructive.

The clerical force of the last session served at this.

The following distinguished visitors were present: T. C. Meckel, B. R. Wiener, J. H. Bauernfeind, J. G. Kirn, D. C. Hauck, and the Misses Fecker and Hof. They addressed conference at various times.

It was reported that L. Reep, and sisters H. Bunse and J. M. Baitinger had gone to their eternal rest during the year. Suitable resolutions were passed, and a memorial service held on Saturday afternoon, at which the Bishop spoke, using Phil. 1: 21 as his text.

C. C. Engelbart was granted a superannuated relation.

1919

H. F. Schlaak remained in the itinerancy one year without an appointment, and two years later was located.

Arthur Riss received his credentials to the Texas Conference.

R. L. Wintz was received into the conference from the Congregational Church.

William H. Wiener and Irving Kottke were licensed as ministers on probation.

F. M. Ohms, E. G. Podoll and R. L. Wintz were advanced to the order of deacon.

J. G. Heidinger, F. W. Hauser and P. J. Smith were voted their orders as elder.

F. M. Ohms and E. G. Podoll were received into the itinerancy.

E. H. Bollenbach, H. Plantikow, C. F. Kachel, M. Schoenleben and R. M. Mueller were elected as delegates to the General Conference, which was to meet the next fall in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

E. H. Bollenbach was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

H. S. Frank had been appointed missionary to China by the Board of Missions and was to leave during the summer. The conference in a set of resolutions wished him and his wife "Godspeed and His richest blessings in their new field of missionary activity in China."

Upon request of the presiding elders A. H. Utzinger had gathered the special conference rules, which had been passed at the various sessions, from the records and presented a copy thereof to the conference. These rules were referred to a committee of five for revision. In due time the committee reported, leaving out some of the old rules and changing others. The adopted rules may be found on pages 52-55 of the 1919 Conference Journal.

Heating Plants

A resolution was adopted recommending that furnaces be installed in all new parsonages, and where there is a water works system, arrangements for hot water be made. Also that heating and cooking facilities be furnished for all parsonages. If this recommendation were complied with it would save the ministers much work and expense. Stoves are heavy and usually it requires several men to move them. The drayage and freight charges are quite an item to the congregations. Sometimes they are broken

on the way. Then there is the difficulty of fitting the pipes in another parsonage. At one place it is cheaper to burn wood, at another, coal.

The conference ordered that the secretary have three volumes of the Conference Journal bound for each quadrennium.

Appointments

The bishop read the appointments on Saturday evening.

Mankato District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, G. W. Hielscher
Blue Earth Station, E. F. Brand
Fairmont, E. G. Podoll
Hendricks, to be supplied
Jackson, C. G. Roesti
Lamberton Circuit, F. A. Frase
Lamberton Mission, M. Wordelman
Le Sueur, K. Meckel
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall, H. A. Zieske
Mankato, W. R. Wiener
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes
Pipestone, P. J. Smith
Redwood, G. A. Lippert
Rice Lake, H. C. Freitag
St. Clair, H. H. Georgius
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, F. F. Arndt
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, R. L. Wintz

Minneapolis District—H. Plantikow, P. E.

Appleton, G. F. Hack
Brainerd, F. M. Ohms
Bellingham, S. B. Goetz
Danube, G. H. Schaefer
Fergus Falls, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Maple Grove, G. P. Herbold
Mayer, F. J. Knuth
Minneapolis, M. Schoenleben
Odessa, F. W. Tesch
Olivia, Otto Brose
Paynesville, P. A. Lang
Pequot, to be supplied
St. Cloud, W. J. Vetter
South Haven, A. T. Nelson
Wadena, A. A. Schendel
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—C. F. Kachel, P. E.

Bismarck, to be supplied
Buffalo Lake, C. A. Tesch
Cherry Grove, L. Strothman
Duluth, E. C. Kreitlow
Kenyon, E. A. Werner
Farmington and New Trier, G. H. Siebold
Faribault, H. C. Schmidt
Hammond, to be supplied
Kasson, C. Nauman
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, to be federated
Ioska, to be supplied
Preston, C. F. Sydow
Racine, A. J. Smith
Rochester, J. G. Heidinger
St. Paul, Pine Street, C. B. Frank
St. Paul, Winifred, H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, F. W. Hauser
St. Charles, W. Walter
Waseca, H. A. Seder
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

H. A. Zieske served Hendricks; J. Haueter, Pequot, after he returned from the army; C. C. Engelbart, Hammond; G. Britzius, New Trier.

1919

Religious Services

The brethren Ohms, Hielscher, B. R. Wiener preached during the week; J. H. Bauernfeind and the deaconesses Fecker and Hof gave addresses on the deaconess work. Dr. G. J. Kirn addressed the Young People's Alliance meeting. The bishop spoke on Saturday evening on "The Work in the Minnesota Conference." On Sunday morning he preached an able and forceful ordination sermon; in the afternoon he conducted the ordination service, and in the evening preached a great sermon on "The Test of a Life." B. R. Wiener preached the missionary sermon on Sunday afternoon. A large number of people filled the spacious church at each service, and showers of blessings descended upon them.

After the Sunday evening service the conference adjourned, and the ministers began to scatter in all directions, hastening to their homes.

In the Field, 1919-1920

In all there were 329 conversions reported. A number of successful revival meetings were held. The following fields reported the larger number of converts: Cherry Grove, Marshall, Fergus Falls, South Haven, Brainerd, Pipestone, Blue Earth Station, Duluth, Farmington, Kasson, Racine and Hutchinson.

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION, 1920

This time the conference convened at Olivia, at 2:00 P. M., on Wednesday, April 28, 1920. Bishop Breyfogel could not be present, therefore he requested Bishop Spreng to preside in his stead. After the spiritual opening exercises the chairman appointed R. M. Mueller as secretary. He chose H. E. Mueller, P. A. Lang and H. Isker as his assistants.

C. Hauser, B. R. Wiener, F. W. Umbreit, Emil Mueller, Wm. Gaines and the deaconesses Fecker and Hof were received by the conference as advisory members, and all but one delivered addresses.

During the year H. Bunse and F. Moede, pioneers of our conference, and sister Catherine Stegner, widow of the sainted Wm. Stegner. had passed to their eternal reward. The conference was also informed of the death of George Johnson, the indefatigable and earnest missionary treasurer of our church. Suitable resolutions were passed and a memorial service held on Sat-

urday afternoon, at which the Bishop spoke words of comfort and cheer.

G. W. Hielscher and H. Isker were, upon their request, superannuated.

M. Wordelman's wish, to be located, was granted.

Earl Utzinger, of Racine, Edwin Moede, of Marshall, and Albert Utzman, of Buffalo Lake, were voted their licenses as preachers.

Clarence E. Borchardt was received from the Dakota Conference as an itinerant elder.

E. C. Kreitlow was voted his order as elder, and A. T. Nelson his as deacon.

Nelson and Borchardt were received into the itinerancy.

G. P. Herbold returned his preacher's license and withdrew from the church.

E. W. Matz took his credentials to the California Conference. R. L. Wintz also had credentials granted him.

H. Plantikow's fourth term as presiding elder had expired, and C. B. Frank was elected in his place.

C. F. Kachel was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Forward Movement

During and after the great World War, the leaders in the various denominations realized that special efforts should be put forth to spread Christianity. The various church-governing bodies took up the question and called upon the membership to comply with a forward movement program, which had been worked out. Our own church perfected an organization for this purpose. A number of objectives were planned. One was to raise a large sum of money and the others were to gain many new converts and church members, and to cultivate the prayer life.

At this session much attention was given this Forward Movement. Bishop Spreng, B. R. Wiener, F. W. Umbreit and H. Plantikow, our conference director, spoke in its behalf at various times and created considerable enthusiasm for it. Our conference was requested by the General Board to raise $153,400 as its share of the Forward Movement Fund, but cheerfully pledged itself to raise $225,000. About $200,000 was secured in cash and pledges. This sum was to be paid in five equal annual installments.

1920

During the year a new church was built in the city of Mankato, on a new site. The old property was sold. In Fergus Falls the church had been partially destroyed by a cyclone on June 22, 1919. It was repaired at a cost of $950.00.

Appointments

The Bishop read the appointments on Saturday evening.

Mankato District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, W. G. Vetter
Blue Earth Station, E. F. Brand
Fairmont, W. Schneider
Hendricks, to be supplied
Jackson, C. G. Roesti
Lamberton Circuit and Lamberton Mission, F. A. Frase and supply
Le Sueur, K. Meckel
Luverne, F. W. Schendel
Marshall, H. A. Zieske
Mankato, W. H. Wiener
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes
Pipestone, P. J. Smith
Redwood, G. A. Lippert
Rice Lake, H. C. Freitag
St. Clair, H. Georgius
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, F. F. Arndt
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, C. E. Borchardt

Minneapolis District—C. B. Frank, P. E.

Appleton, G. F. Hack
Brainerd, F. M. Ohms
Bellingham, S. B. Goetz
Danube, G. H. Schaefer
Fergus Falls, F. R. Riedel
Hutchinson, R. M. Mueller
Isanti, to be supplied
Maple Grove, to be supplied
Mayer, F. J. Knuth
Minneapolis, M. Schoenleben
South Minneapolis, to be supplied
Odessa, F. W. Tesch
Olivia, H. C. Schmidt
Paynesville, P. A. Lang
Pequot, J. H. Haueter
St. Cloud, A. T. Nelson
South Haven, O. Brose
Wadena, A. A. Schendel
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—C. F. Kachel, P. E.

Bismarck, to be supplied
Buffalo Lake, C. A. Tesch
Cherry Grove, L. Strothman
Duluth, E. C. Kreitlow
Farmington and New Trier, G. H. Siebold
Faribault, H. Plantikow
Hammond, W. Walter
Kasson, A. H. Nauman
Kenyon, E. A. Werner
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, to be federated
Ioska, to be supplied
Preston, C. F. Sydow
Racine, A. J. Smith
Rochester, J. G. Heidinger
St. Paul, First Church, C. B. Frank
St. Paul, Winifred St., H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, F. W. Hauser
St. Charles, A. R. Zick
Waseca, C. Nauman
Winona, A. H. Utzinger

H. F. Rieke supplied Hendricks; E. Melzian, Lamberton Mission part of the year; P. Schott, Isanti; G. Britzius, Maple Grove; H. Isker, Bismark and Iosca; G. W. Hielscher, New Trier and First Church, St. Paul.

1920

Worship

H. Isker, E. C. Kreitlow, C. Hauser and F. W. Umbreit preached during the week; Bishop Spreng and Deaconesses Fecker and Hof spoke on Wednesday evening, and F. W. Umbreit and B. R. Wiener gave addresses on the Forward Movement on Friday evening. The Bishop preached the ordination sermon on Sunday forenoon; in the afternoon he ordained A. T. Nelson as deacon; (E. C. Kreitlow was called home on account of sickness in his family and, therefore, was not present to be ordained); and in the evening he delivered another powerful sermon.

The Sunday services were held in the Armory, which was thrice filled with vast throngs of people.

Thus closed another conference session.

During the Year, 1919-1920

The brethren worked with vigor and with zeal. The times and the conditions of living have changed greatly since the early years of our conference. Now many people are financially well fixed, and some of them have relied upon their wealth instead of God. People have become accustomed to all kinds of conveniences and luxuries, and have indulged in numerous and expensive pleasures and amusements. The mode of living has become so complex that many imagine that they cannot find time to attend church services. It is difficult in our day to have an old time revival with true penitence and sound conversions. With sorrowful hearts some of the older brethren compare some of these superficial revivals with the thorough ones of fifty years ago.

During this year nineteen fields reported no conversions, while the remainder reported from one to 63. The whole number of converts was 558.

In St. Cloud the old parsonage, situated two blocks from the church, was sold, and a new one built on the church lot at a cost of $5,495.25.

At Wells the old parsonage was sold and moved off the lot, and a new one built on the old site at a cost of $6,478.15.

At Fairmont, where our pastors, up to this time, had to live in rented houses, a new parsonage was built on the church lot at a cost of $4798.79.

In South Minneapolis, on Oakland Avenue, a new chapel was built at a cost of $13,546.04. This was opened for divine services

a short time before the 1920 conference session, with L. S. Stapf in charge.

The population in the vicinity of the St. Paul, Pine Street Church, had so unfavorably changed, that, for years, the conference desired a change of location. The Great Northern Railway Company bought the property, and a new location was selected, east from the center of the city, and a large, well arranged new church built at a cost of $52,000.00, including lots.

Fifty-Fourth Session, 1921

On Wednesday afternoon of April 27, 1921, at 2 o'clock, the conference was called to order by Bishop G. Heinmillller in our Salem's Church at Blue Earth. After the devotional exercises the Bishop addressed the conference on the subject of Church Union, informing us of the progress of the negotiations of the commissions and the future steps to be taken for the union of the United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association.

The secretaries of the last session served again. The usual number of general church officials were present to represent their respective interests. They were C. Hauser, George Epp, J. H. Bauernfeind, Wm. Heinmiller, C. Staebler and W. C. Nuhn. Besides them were present E. Mueller, W. L. Zeller of Wisconsin, and Deaconess Rose Fecker.

During the year H. A. Seder and the sisters F. P. Werner, H. A. Zieske and Emilie Strohmeier, widow of A. Strohmeier of blessed memory, had died. Resolutions of sympathy were passed and a memorial service held on Saturday afternoon, at which the Bishop gave an appropriate address.

J. Graeben, who had served in our conference for many years, had moved to North Dakota, and called for his credentials.

A. J. Smith left his field in the fall, to accept a call to the mission field of China from another church, and desired credentials, which were granted.

G. F. Hack was given credentials to the North Dakota Conference.

H. F. Rieke was received from the Methodist Episcopal Church, and E. Melzian from South Dakota Conference of our church.

Fremont Willmert of Blue Earth, C. Milton Schaefer, son of Rev. G. H. Schaefer, Frank A. Spong and Arnie Ehlers of Marshall received licenses as preacher on probation.

1921

W. H. Wiener, W. W. Schneider and H. F. Rieke were advanced to the order of deacon, and C. E. Borchardt, H. A. Zieske and F. M. Ohms to that of elder.

W. W. Schneider and W. H. Wiener were received into the itinerancy.

G. W. Hielscher entered the active ranks again, but G. H. Siebold requested to be superannuated on account of impaired health.

C. F. Kachel was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

Appointments

They were read by the Bishop on Sunday afternoon.

Mankato District—E. H. Bollenbach, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, A. A. Schendel
Blue Earth Station, E. F. Brand
Fairmont, W. W. Schneider
Hendricks, to be supplied
Jackson, E. Zellmer
Lamberton Circuit, F. J. Knuth
Lamberton Mission, E. Melzian
Le Sueur, K. Meckel
Luverne, F. H. Rieke
Marshall, H. A. Zieske
Mankato, W. H. Wiener
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes
Pipestone, P. J. Smith
Redwood, F. A. Frase
Rice Lake, H. C. Freitag
St. Clair, G. W. Hielscher
Sleepy Eye, F. P. Werner
Wabasso, F. F. Arndt
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, C. E. Borchardt

Minneapolis District—C. B. Frank, P. E.

Appleton, F. R. Riedel
Brainerd, F. M. Ohms
Bellingham, A. H. Utzinger
Danube, G. H. Schaefer
Fergus Falls, C. G. Roesti
Hutchinson, S. B. Goetz
Isanti, to be supplied
Maple Grove, O. Brose
Mayer, R. M. Mueller
Minneapolis, M. Schoenleben
South Minneapolis, R. H. Mueller
Odessa, F. W. Tesch
Olivia, H. C. Schmidt
Paynesville, P. A. Lang
Pequot, J. H. Haueter
St. Cloud, A. T. Nelson
South Haven, Edwin Miller
Wadena, to be supplied
Zion, R. R. Werner

St. Paul District—C. F. Kachel, P. E.

Bismark, to be supplied
Buffalo Lake, G. A. Lippert
Cherry Grove, L. Strothman
Duluth, E. C. Kreitlow
Farmington, C. A. Tesch
Faribault, H. Plantikow
Hammond, W. Walter
Kasson, Earl Utzinger
Kenyon, E. A. Werner
Mound Prairie, C. C. Stettbacher
Morristown, to be federated
New Trier, to be supplied
Ioska, to be supplied
Preston, C. F. Sydow
Racine, F. W. Hauser
Rochester, F. W. Schendel
St. Paul, First, J. G. Heidinger
St. Paul, Winifred, H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, C. E. Berger
Sargent, A. H. Nauman
St. Charles, A. R. Zick
Waseca, C. Nauman
Winona, H. H. Georgius

1921

Milton Schaefer supplied Wadena; M. Wordelman, Bismark; G. Britzius, New Trier, and H. Isker, Ioska.

During the past year F. W. Hauser was changed from Calvary to Racine, to fill the unexpired term of A. J. Smith, and C. E. Berger supplied Calvary till the end of the conference year.

Worship

C. G. Roesti, F. W. Hauser, George Epp, Wm. Heinmiller, and the Bishop preached during the week. On Thursday evening Miss Fecker and J. H. Bauernfeind gave addresses on the Deaconess cause. On Sunday morning the Bishop preached the ordination sermon, and in the afternoon he ordained seven young ministers. On Sunday evening Dr. C. Staebler delivered a very instructive sermon.

Bidding the good people of Blue Earth farewell on Monday morning, the ministers and lay delegates hastened to their various homes to live and work for the Lord.

Unusual Occurrence

During the Saturday evening service, a member of the Blue Earth congregation, Gustave Henke, an old, respected man, became afflicted with heart trouble and died in the pew before a physician could be called. He was a regular attendant of the church services from his youth up, and had the privilege to go to his heavenly home from the church.

1922

For its fifty-fifth session the conference convened in First Evangelical Church at St. Paul, Bishop S. P. Spreng presiding.

This church was admirably adapted for the work of the conference. Each committee had a separate room for its meetings. The noon and evening meals were served in the basement of the church. The large crowds who came to the various services found ample accommodations.

P. A. Lang was appointed as secretary. H. E. Mueller, A. R. Zick and E. C. Kreitlow were his assistants.

C. F. Sydow, F. W. Tesch and G. H. Schaefer, upon their request, were superannuated.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE, 1922

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT—BACK ROW: O. Brose, A. A. Schendel, C. F. Sydow, H. F. Rieke, F. W. Schendel, C. C. Stettbacher, R. R. Werner, E C. Kreitlow, E. G. Podoll, D. C. Trapp, Ed. Miller, C. Gongoll, Geo. Bahr, F. W. Hauser, F. Willmert, Milton Schaefer, W. H. Wiener, E. A. Werner, L. F. Strothman, F. M. Ohms. SECOND ROW: C. A. Tesch, Wm. Arndt, J. M. Baitinger, E. Melzian, F. R. Riedel, J. H. Burmester, C. E. Borchardt, H H. Georgius, J. Manthey, P. Schott, H. A. Zieske, F. P. Werner, G. W. Hielscher, A. Geyman, S. B. Goetz, Wm. Hacklander, H. C. Freitag, D. H. Dreessen, J. H. Haueter, H. C. Schmidt, C. Berger, W. W. Schneider, R. H. Mueller, Edw. Zellmer, A. T. Nelson, H. Stark, Aaron Link. THIRD ROW: F. F. Arndt, R. M. Mueller, J. Gongoll, F. A. Frase, A. H. Utzinger, L. S. Stapf, C. F. Kachel, Bishop S. P. Spreng. C. B. Frank, E. F. Brand, P. A. Lang, G. Britzius, H. Plantikow, H. Isker, E. H. Bollenbach, M. Schoenleben, A. R. Zick, F. W. Tesch, C. Nauman, F. J. Knuth, W. A. Juedes, G. H. Schaefer, H. Habein, W. Walter. LOWER ROW: Earl Utzinger, K. Meckel, F. A. Schroeder, J. G. Heidinger, C. G. Roesti, R. C. Mittelstadt, O. R. Wolf, W. F. Moede, W. C. Hallwachs, H. E. Mueller, M. Wordelman, A. Nauman, G. A. Lippert, H. Stocker, H. Pfeil, J. C. Zehnder.

A. Gollnick, A. R. Kottke, A. G. Lippert, W. G. Schendel, E. F. Roesti, O. Munson, George Kirgiss, Aaron Link and Milton Sipple were licensed as preachers on probation.

Deacons' orders were granted F. Willmert, R. H. Mueller, J. H. Haueter, D. C. Trapp and C. E. Berger. These five and H. F. Rieke and M. Wordelman were received into the itinerancy.

E. G. Podoll was ordained as elder.

P. J. Smith and F. Willmert, at their request, received credentials.

C. F. Kachel was re-elected, and E. F. Brand newly elected presiding elders.

E. H. Bollenbach was elected delegate to the Board of Missions.

One of the most important transactions of this conference was its unanimous vote in favor of the union of our church with the United Evangelical Church.

The various changes in our Discipline were read and explained and, in each instance, unanimously adopted.

The various conferences of the Evangelical Association have voted without a single dissenting vote for the union of the two denominations. The United Evangelical Church has also given a strong vote in favor of union. Our conference, anticipating the union next fall, elected three additional lay delegates to the Joint General Conference, to be held at Detroit, Michigan, the following October. The solemnizing of this union will bring to a happy close a long series of negotiations.

O. R. Wolf, H. Habein and D. H. Dreessen were elected as delegates to said General Conference.

In anticipation of this being the last session of the Minnesota Conference of the *Evangelical* ASSOCIATION, the conference had its picture taken.

The next session will be that of the Minnesota Conference of the *Evangelical* CHURCH.

Appointments

Mankato District—C. F. Kachel, P. E.

Blue Earth Circuit, A. A. Schendel
Blue Earth Station, F. P. Werner
Fairmont, W. W. Schneider
Hendricks, supplied by G. Barr
Jackson, E. Zellmer
Lamberton Circuit, F. J. Knuth
Lamberton Mission, E. Melzian
Le Sueur, F. F. Arndt
Luverne, H. F. Rieke
Marshall, H. A. Zieske
Mankato, W. H. Wiener
New Ulm, W. A. Juedes

Pipestone, C. E. Borchardt
Redwood, F. A. Frase
Rice Lake, E. Meinzer
St. Clair, G. W. Hielscher
Sleepy Eye, R. R. Werner
Wabasso, K. Meckel
Wells, R. C. Mittelstadt
Worthington, E. C. Kreitlow

Minneapolis District—C. B. Frank, P. E.

Appleton, F. R. Riedel
Brainerd, L. S. Strothman
Bellingham, A. H. Utzinger
Danube, F. M. Ohms
Fergus Falls, C. G. Roesti
Hutchinson, S. B. Goetz
Isanti, to be supplied
Maple Grove, O. Brose
Mayer, R. M. Mueller
Minneapolis, First Church, M. Schoenleben
Minneapolis, Oakland Ave., R. H. Mueller
Odessa, M. Wordelman
Olivia, H. C. Schmidt
Paynesville, P. A. Lang
Pequot, J. H. Haueter
St. Cloud, A. T. Nelson
South Haven, Edwin Miller
Wadena, E. G. Podoll
Zion, G. Duebendorf

St. Paul District—E. F. Brand, P. E.

Bismark, G. Britzius
Buffalo Lake, G. A. Lippert
Cherry Grove, C. C. Stettbacher
Duluth, D. C. Trapp
Farmington, C. A. Tesch
Faribault, H. Plantikow
Hammond, M. Walter
Kasson, M. Berger
Kenyon, E. A. Werner and Earl Utzinger
Mound Prairie, A. Link
Morristown, E. H. Bollenbach
New Trier and Osceola, E. F. Roesti
Ioska and Cannonville, to be supplied
Preston, H. C. Freitag
Racine, F. W. Hauser
Rochester, F. W. Schendel
St. Paul, First, J. H. Heidinger
St. Paul, Winifred, H. E. Mueller
St. Paul, Calvary, C. E. Berger
Sargent, A. H. Nauman
St. Charles, A. R. Zick
Waseca, C. Nauman
Winona, H. H. Georgius

PART II.

Obituaries of the Departed Ministers of our Conference

The obituaries follow each other in the order of the death of these ministers.

It was difficult to collect the data for some of these life-sketches, for in some instances no trace of relatives could be found without a considerable sacrifice of time and money. The reading of these will awaken pleasant memories in their old associates, and inspire all to greater efforts and self-denial in the kingdom of God. Our fathers were a noble band of men, true to God and loyal to their church. May the younger men, whose heritage it is to follow them, surpass them in efficiency in the Lord's cause!

Rev. C. L. Seder

Brother Christian Lewis Seder was born July 29, 1830, in Hanover, Germany, came to America at the age of sixteen, and settled in Wisconsin. At the age of 24 years he was soundly converted under the labors of L. Buehler, on the so-called Fox River Mission, and joined the Evangelical Association. Soon after he was elected class leader. In 1856 he was licensed to preach by the Wisconsin Conference and served two years as local preacher. His services in this relation were greatly blessed. At the session of the Wisconsin Conference, in Sauk County, in 1858, he was received into the itinerancy. The previous year he was married to Ursula Saxer. During the first and second years of his active ministry he served the new Buffalo County Mission with good success, leading many precious souls to their Saviour. The second of these years was especially fruitful. In 1860 he was

REV. C. LEWIS SEDER

ordained as deacon. At this time the Iowa Conference was organized, and he volunteered his services to this new conference. Together with John Hammeter he was stationed on Preston Mission, in Minnesota, where he labored two more years. Here many souls owed their conversion, next to God, to Brother Seder. Willingly he bore the privations and hardships of this new and large field, where he had to travel long distances, and always met his appointments. In the spring of 1862 he was ordained as elder and stationed on New Ulm Mission. Little did the brethren think at the parting at this conference session that they would never meet him again here on earth.

With the usual faithfulness and energy he began the work on his new field. For Sunday, Aug. 17, 1862, he had two appointments along the Minnesota River, near Beaver Falls, not far from the present Redwood Falls, where the Evangelical Association had three promising classes. He preached twice on said Sunday with great power. On Monday morning, after visiting a few families, Brother Seder started for home, but was soon overtaken by the savage Sioux Indians, and shot to death while in his buggy. An Indian sprang into the buggy, threw the dying minister out, and hastened away with the rig. Many of his Evangelical members were murdered at the same time by these savages. A few weeks later a company of Minnesota cavalry scoured these devastated regions and buried the decomposing bodies. Later Rev. J. H. Schmitt, and others, excavated the bodies of Rev. Seder and G. Mannweiler, and conveyed them to the Evangelical cemetery near Cottonwood, five miles from New Ulm, and interred them beside each other.

In his Christian life Brother Seder exhibited the characteristics of humility, earnestness, conscientiousness and deep piety. During his prayers he would often claim the promises of God with such strong faith that great manifestations of divine power were realized, and sinners deeply convicted. As minister he was earnest, faithful and diligent. With all diligence he pursued his studies in the conference course. He was deeply interested in the welfare of his fellow-men. He tried in every way to win souls for Christ. He was an especially *talented* man, but it was his firm piety and the power of the Holy Ghost, which he acquired by constant wrestling with God in secret prayer, which were the secret of his great success.

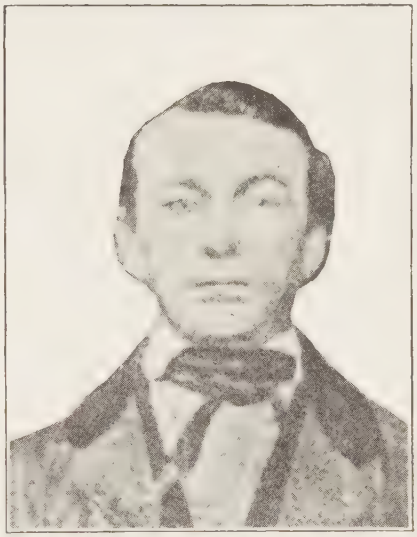
He left his wife and three children to mourn his so sudden departure. His two sons, Henry and James, entered the Christian

ministry and became successful workers in the Lord's vineyard, thus carrying on the work which their father was compelled to lay down so early.

His widow later married a Mr. Miller, with whom she lived for many years near Arcadia, Wisconsin.

Rev. August Nierens

Brother August Nierens was born June 25, 1828, in Lubs, Prussia. In 1852 he came to America and settled down in Green Lake County, Wis. Here he was soundly converted under the labors of L. Buehler. He joined the Evangelical Association at once, and was soon elected class leader, in which office he was a blessing to the class. At the session of the Wisconsin Conference, in May, 1859, he was licensed on probation and served two years in a local relation. In the same year, 1859, he moved with his family in a prairie schooner to Minnesota and settled on a farm near the Minnesota River, about five miles east of New Ulm, near the present Courtland. In 1861 he entered the itinerancy, and was stationed as assistant to Rev. Conrad Lahr on New Ulm Mission. In the spring of 1862 he became assistant to Rev. O. Ragatz on Crow River Mission, which field he served until death.



REV. AUG. NIERENS

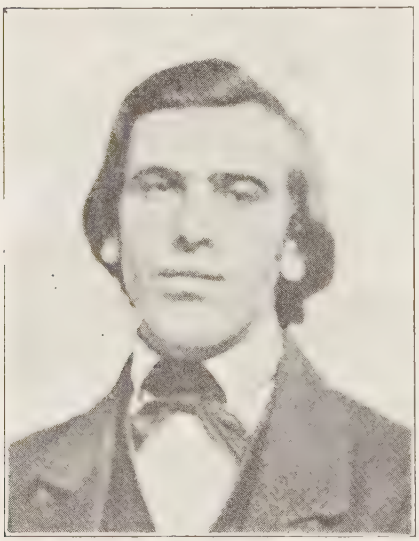
When the enraged Indians began to murder the whites on Aug. 18, 1862, he was in New Ulm and assisted in the defence of the place. It is claimed that he especially distinguished himself during that siege by his courage, presence of mind and valor, inspiring those, who were afraid, to fight bravely against the savages. After several fruitless attempts to capture New Ulm the Indians withdrew. The inhabitants presumed they had left the immediate vicinity, and, being anxious to learn what had become of their homes, ventured out to their farms to look after their cattle and their crops. Rev. Nierens was one of these. He

moved his family back to his farm on Monday, Sept. 1st. The next morning, while eating breakfast, he heard a neighbor's child scream, and stepped to the door to see what was happening, when his body was pierced by the bullets of three savages. The next day several neighbors who had escaped the bullets of the Indians buried his body near his home. Later his remains were interred in a cemetery near Nicollet. His wife with their three children were not harmed.

Brother Nierens was truly a pious man, intensely conscientious, cheerful and friendly in his intercourse with the people. As preacher he was diligent and punctual. His sermons were plain and powerful, and he gave promise of becoming a successful minister of the Gospel in our church. His widow later married a Mr. Timm, with whom she lived many years near Springfield, Minn.

Rev. J. Hammeter

The sainted John Hammeter was born April 6. 1833, in Bavaria. With his parents he came to America in 1846 and settled near Jefferson, Wisconsin. Here he came under the influence of Evangelical ministers and was converted to God in 1850. Some years later the Spirit of God convinced him that he should preach the Gospel to a lost world, and in 1857 he was licensed by the Wisconsin Conference. He preached two years in Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1859 was stationed on St. Paul Mission as successor of A. Tarnutzer, being our second minister of that city. After serving St. Paul for one year he was sent to Preston with L. Seder as his assistant. In 1862 he was given charge of Cannon River Circuit, remaining two years. After having preached seven years he was elected presiding elder and stationed on St. Paul District. Scarcely ever, if at all, has a man been elevated to the office of presiding elder so young, at the age of 31. He only served



REV. JOHN HAMMETER, P. E.

two and one-half years in this office when death overtook him. He was troubled with chronic earache, which was aggravated by a severe cold, and developed into brain fever. After suffering intensely for a week he quietly fell asleep in Jesus on Sept. 26, 1866.

About one year prior to his death he was bereft of his dear companion. She left him an infant son to care for.

His sermons were instructive and edifying. He was a correct expounder of the Scriptures. In the performance of his duties he was punctual and faithful. In his social intercourse he was friendly and upright, and was highly respected wherever he was well known. Although his sojourn among us was brief, yet he will live in the memory of many, who esteemed him highly. He lived well while he had the opportunity. The ministers and members of St. Paul District were much affected when the news of his death reached them.

He died at East Prairie. The funeral services were held in that church, and he was laid to rest at the same place. The ministers at that time were few, and people lamented his departure, yet God knows why he calls his workmen home.

Rev. J. M. L. Mueller

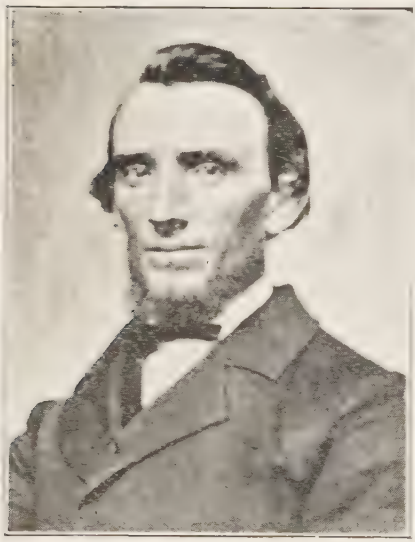
Brother J. M. Louis Mueller died Feb. 23, 1870, at Castle Rock, Dakota County, Minn., at the age of 26 years and 26 days, of tuberculosis. He suffered of this dread disease over a year, but remained at his post of duty until his strength failed him. He left his field, Crow River Mission, in the fall of 1869 and moved with his family into the home of his parents at Castle Rock. Here he suffered for several long months, but was tenderly cared for by his wife and parents. At last God released him from all suffering. He was born on Feb. 17, 1844, in Wuerttemberg, came to America in 1852 with his parents, and located in Ohio. Soon after they moved to Minnesota, where they experienced the difficulties and privations of the first settlers.

Brother M. was converted in his early youth, being the first-fruit of our ministers at Castle Rock. Owing to his piety and talents he was elected class leader by his class. He soon realized the call to the ministry, which he obeyed after some hesitation. He was licensed to preach by the Iowa Conference, in session at Grandview in 1867, and stationed with W. Giess on Wilton Mission. The next year he assisted F. Emde on Winona Mission. In the spring of 1869 he was given charge of Crow River Mission, but served it only about one-half of a year.

His career as minister was very brief. He had good talents for a preacher and was a gifted singer. He left his wife and two small children and other relatives to mourn his demise. He was buried near his home.

Rev. George von Eschen

George von Eschen was born February 22, 1835, in Canton Graubuenden, Switzerland. In his youth he came to America to the State of Wisconsin. Here he came in touch with our church and was converted at the age of fifteen. His spiritual life developed, and he soon felt the call of God to preach the Gospel. In 1857 the Wisconsin Conference licensed him as preacher on probation and he was sent as assistant to L. von Wald on Buffalo County Mission, bordering the Mississippi River. To this field was added the Winona Mission in Minnesota, which gave the two circuit riders an immense territory to cover. After serving this field two years he was given charge of Preston Mission, with J. Rasskopf as his assistant. This mission covered the same territory as the Winona Mission, its name having been changed. In 1860 he was transferred to Cannon River Mission, which he served two years. Here he built a church at New Trier and a parsonage, which was the first Evangelical parsonage in the state. After this he served Frontenac Mission two years. After having done hard pioneer work in Minnesota for seven years, he returned to Wisconsin in 1864, where he served the Kickapoo, Buffalo and Dane County charges, remaining two years on each. On account of impaired health he located in 1870, and later bought a farm near Kasson, Minn. In the winter of 1873-74 he took up active work in the ministry again, filling the vacancy on Kasson Circuit, which was caused by the transfer of F. G. Sahr to Jackson. In 1874 he was received into the Minnesota Conference and was stationed on Kasson Circuit,



REV. GEORGE VON ESCHEN

which he served successfully for three years. In 1877 he was sent to Hamilton Circuit, where he remained for nearly three years.

In the spring of 1880 he caught a severe cold while going to one of his appointments. This developed into neuralgia and erysipelas, which caused his death on April 11th. He died at the age of 45 years, one month and 19 days.

He was married in 1857 to Verona Luescher. This union was blessed with 3 sons and 3 daughters, who grew up. Sister von Eschen was a good helpmate to her husband in the Gospel field. It was a great affliction to him and their children when the Lord called her home in 1875. The next year he was married to Sophie Vath, with whom he had two children.

Brother von Eschen was a good preacher, expounding the Word of God correctly. He was well versed in the Scriptures and proved his assertions with Bible quotations. When he became especially inspired he carried his whole audience with him. In revival meetings he could produce wonderful effects with his appeals to the church to consecrate itself to God, and to the sinners, to leave the ways of sin and seek Christ as their Saviour. He led many precious souls to his Lord. He was dignified in his conduct, and people looked up to him with respect.

Financial reverses, together with a meager salary, made it difficult for him to lay up anything for the future. His early departure made it impossible for him to settle up his affairs as he wished.

The funeral services were held in the church near Racine (then called the Middle Branch church). Wm. Stegner, presiding elder, preached an effective sermon. He was assisted in the services by the brethren Yahn, J. L. Stegner and C. Oertli. The remains were laid at rest in the Racine cemetery, where they await the resurrection of the just.

Rev. Peter Mumm

Peter Mumm was born Sept. 9, 1858, at Burgstahl, Schleswig. At the age of seven, he came with his parents to America. The family settled down in Minneapolis. Here he came in touch with the Evangelical Association and was soundly converted at the age of sixteen, under the labors of Wm. Stegner. He received his education in the public schools, and by attending North-Western College at Naperville two years. He was licensed to preach in

1881, and received into the itinerancy at the same time. He was ordained as deacon in 1882. He had been recommended to the presiding elders for an appointment in 1880, and was stationed on Two Rivers Mission, under the supervision of F. C. Schmidt of St. Cloud. He served this extensive charge with great credit. The next spring he was sent to the Breckenridge Mission, which he served about one and one-half years, until his death. Here he had long distances to drive and many hardships to endure, but he was faithful and diligent in the fulfillment of his duties. In the fall of 1882 he took sick with typhoid-pneumonia, which undermined his strong constitution, and caused his death on November 25th. He reached the age of 24 years, 2 months and 16 days.

Rev. William Stegner

William Stegner was born Dec. 6, 1832, at Ebersdorf, in the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Germany. As a young man of 19 years he came to America, and made his home at Lomira, Wis. Here he came under the influence of Evangelical preachers, and was converted in 1853 and joined the church. Soon after he realized the call to the ministry, to which he favorably responded. He was licensed to preach by the Illinois Conference in 1856, at Freeport. As there were more ministers than fields, he had to go home without an appointment. When in the fall of that year the presiding elders of the Wisconsin Conference sent Brother A. Tarnutzer to take charge of the Minnesota Mission, Brother Stegner was appointed to fill the vacancy on Fox River Mission. He acceptably served this charge one and one-half years. From 1858 to '59 he served Greenfield Circuit. In the spring of 1859 he was sent as missionary to Minnesota, where he labored the rest of his life. From 1859-'60 he served Cannon River charge; '60-'61 Le Sueur; '61-'62 Winona; '62-'64 Preston; '64-'66 Can-

REV. WM. STEGNER

non River again; '66-'67 Hennepin and Carver. At the session of the Iowa Conference, 1867, at Grand View, Iowa, he was elected presiding elder, to succeed the lamented John Hammeter, deceased, and was stationed on St. Paul District, which he served four years. In 1871 he was re-elected as presiding elder and served Winona District four years. In 1875 the conference again entrusted him with this important office and stationed him on St. Paul District. At the end of another year he resigned as presiding elder on account of family affairs. From 1876-'79 he served the important Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue church. In 1879 the conference saw fit to elect him again as presiding elder, and stationed him on Mankato District, which he served four years. At the conference session at Yellowbank, in 1883, he was not re-elected, but was again stationed as pastor to Minneapolis, which, in the providence of God, was to be his last charge. He headed the Minnesota delegation to the General Conference four times.

On July 19th he was seized with a violent attack of cholera morbus, which turned into dysentery and typhoid fever. All that medical skill could do was of no avail. On August 6, 1883, his spirit left its mortal frame, and winged its way to the realms of light above. He died at the comparatively young age of 50 years and 8 months. He was in the service of the Gospel of Christ not quite 27 years. When those, who knew him well, think of the amount of good he did in this short period of life, they marvel at his wonderful capacity for work. His certainly was a busy life, full to the brim of good works. He put more into 50 years than many do into eighty.

As a Christian he was always a model example for others. Conscientious, rigorous against himself, he was sincere and honorable in all his actions. The service of God was always his joy and his pleasure. Being an excellent singer he used this particular talent appropriately for the praise of his God and his Saviour. When he was conducting the singing there often came a sound from heaven as of a mighty rushing wind, as in the day of Pentecost. He delighted in introducing new choruses at his quarterly meetings. The people would learn them and sing them over and over in their meetings.

He was a diligent student of the Holy Scriptures, and, therefore, in all his sermons and discourses a man of the Bible. He would quote and apply Scripture passages with telling effect. But what made him a successful preacher, above all else, was his exercise in prayer. Sometimes for hours and hours he would be on

his knees wrestling with God for the power and unction of the Holy Ghost, for strength and fitness, properly to fulfill the duties of this office. Once, after arriving at home from a quarterly meeting, he fasted and wrestled in prayer for days, for the blessing of entire sanctification, until his soul was satisfied.

In the pulpit, although not eloquent, yet he was powerful. When conditions were favorable, and he had worked himself into the depths of his text, he would pour forth volley after volley of divine truth, with such earnestness and power that sinners began to tremble and the children of God to shout, and the heavens often literally opened over the audience. His language was beautiful and perspicuous, forcible and convincing. His demeanor and gestures in the puplit commanded respect and drew the attention of his listeners. His stately physical form seemed to be permeated by the divine, and it was inspiring to look upon him when he was delivering his important messages from God.

He was willing to make any reasonable sacrifice for the kingdom of God. In the early years of his ministry he had to endure many privations and sufferings. He was an active "circuit rider," making his appointments on horseback. He received a mere pittance for a salary. Yet he was always happy and cheerful. Old and young looked for the coming of "William Stegner," as he was familiary known. The children were eager to shake hands with him.

In his association with the brethren in the ministry he was open and upright. He called attention to their faults in a kindly spirit, and encouraged them in their work. As a conversationalist he was agreeable and entertaining. At times he would dispel monotony and heaviness by his sparkling witticisms.

In 1860 he was married to Catharine Bauernfeind, which union was blessed with eight children, of whom one little daughter preceded him in death. He was a faithful husband and an ideal father. He blended genuine paternal love with firmness for the right. He tried to train his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. He sent many earnest prayers to the throne of grace for his family, and set them a blameless example. It must be hard for the children of such a father to be lost. He left to mourn his early departure his widow, four sons and three daughters.

In his last illness he quietly surrendered to the will of God. His physician, his devoted wife, the children and the members of

his church did everything in their power to restore his health, yet it appeared to be the will of God to call him home. Being conscious of this fact, he gathered his whole family around him on Sunday afternoon. All being assembled, and he, sitting erect in his bed, called one after the other, and reminded them that they were the children of many fervent prayers, and that they were brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Then he admonished them to be obedient children, and a stay and support for "mamma," when "pa" would be gone. Furthermore, he exhorted all of them to be thoroughly converted, become members of the Evangelical Association, to walk reputably in honor of God and the church, and, finally, meet their father in heaven. There he sat like a priest of God, the Most High, with his earnest, dignified look, laying his hands upon his dear ones, blessing them and saying: "God has promised to be a Father of the widows and orphans. He be with you." After this he exclaimed: "Good-by, mamma! good-by, my dear children! Soon we shall be reunited in life eternal! Good-by, all ye dear friends! Good-by, all ye brethren of the Minnesota Conference!"

The following day, on Monday, he asked for the Lord's Supper, which was administered to him by Brother E. H. Baumann. Brother Strohmeier, the presiding elder, was so affected and broken down with grief, that he could not dispense the sacred emblems. The dying brother received this, his "last Supper," with many thanks and loud praises, and then said: "Good-night, mamma! good-night to all of you! At evening time it shall be light." At a quarter past seven o'clock he breathed his last, and his spirit was gone.

On Wednesday, Aug. 8th, at one P. M., the funeral service was held in his church in Minneapolis. A large number of our ministers and members had assembled to pay their last respects to him.

H. Bunse had charge of the services. C. Brill, an old friend and colleague of his, preached the funeral sermon on Luke 2: 29, 30. Several other brethren took part in the services. The remains were then taken to Faribault, where another service was held. H. E. Linse preached a blessed sermon on Dan. 12: 3. Other brethren assisted in the services. Twenty-nine ministers and hundreds of Evangelical people gathered to see the beloved face for the last time here on earth, but with a blessed hope of meeting again in a better world above. His remains were laid at rest in the beautiful cemetery near Faribault.

He was greatly missed in our conference for many years. Blessed be his memory!

His widow remained living in Minneapolis with the family for many years, and died there Oct. 5, 1919.

Rev. G. J. Schmidt

The death of Brother Schmidt was a peculiarly sad one. We will give the report thereof as we find it in the *Christliche Botschafter* of April 24, 1886, written by A. Strohmeier, excepting a few points which must be changed to suit present conditions.

Rev. Gustave J. Schmidt and his wife died April 14, 1886. Their death was caused by the terrible cyclone which swept over parts of Minnesota on that date. They were in John Schulz's house, in the town of Graham, near Rice Station. Their death was as unexpected as the coming of the Son of man will be to the Judgment. During the forenoon Minnie, the daughter of John and Henrietta Schulz, was united in marriage to Henry Freitag, and, since it was so near the session of our conference, and Brother Schmidt's time on this field expired, this was deemed a proper time to hold a farewell service. In the afternoon, accordingly, Bro. S. preached an impressive farewell sermon on Isaiah 35: 8-10. During the close of the service—no one knows for sure whether it was during the closing prayer, the singing of the farewell hymn, or the pronouncing of the benediction—a sudden crash came, the house was torn to pieces, and, for a time, all were unconscious. Soon the moaning of some of the wounded and hurt aroused others who were yet living, and a search of the debris began. After a short time neighbors hastened to the scene of horror. Nine dead were extricated from the ruins, and 23 were found more or less seriously hurt. Of these two died soon after. Among the dead were Rev. Schmidt and his wife, who were found lying side by side. Undoubtedly when they noticed the danger, in an instant, they reached each other and perished together.

Because of the distance from any town, and the destruction of the telegraph system, it took some time for the news of this disaster to become known. Therefore Brother Strohmeier, who was presiding elder of the district, could not reach the scene of the cyclone until the next evening, April 15th. The brothers of Bro. Schmidt did not arrive until the evening of the sixteenth, and no arrangements for the funeral could be made until they

came. After consultation with the relatives, the remains of Bro. S. and his wife were taken to Paynesville. Here, in the Salem's Church, which was the home church of Mrs. Schmidt, A. Strohmeier preached the funeral sermon to a large audience. Bro. J. Kienholz also took part in the services. The deceased were laid to rest in the cemetery near the Salem's Church.

Gustave J. Schmidt was born March 24, 1856, at Lomira, Wisconsin. While a child his parents moved to Quincy, near St. Charles, Minn. Here he was converted to God and joined our church. He took a deep interest in church affairs. As he grew to manhood he felt the call to the ministry, and was licensed as preacher on probation in 1881, but on account of the sickness and death of his wife he did not enter the active work until the fall of that year. His first experience as a minister was on Pembina Mission, where he served one and one-half years under the supervision of his brother August. In the spring of 1883 he was stationed on the extensive St. Cloud Mission. H. A. Seder was his assistant two years. He was tireless in his work, and had good success. His parishioners thought very highly of him, and many years after his death spoke very favorably about his work. Humanly speaking, his end came all too soon. He was married the first time to Susan Britzius, with whom he had one child, a son named Reuben. She died after they were married about two years. His second marriage was to Augusta Arndt, who met death with him in the fatal storm. With her he had no children. He died at the age of 30 years and 20 days. He had two brothers, August and Fred, in the Minnesota Conference, and one sister was the wife of Rev. C. F. Sydow.

Rev. J. H. Schmitt

John Henry Schmitt was born October 13, 1836, at Marion, Ohio. Of his childhood nothing is known. At the age of 16 years, in 1852, he was converted at some point in Wisconsin, and joined the Evangelical Association. He soon felt an inner prompting to enter the ministry, and, therefore, consecrated himself thoroughly to the work of the Lord. The Wisconsin Conference licensed him to preach in the year 1858. He was stationed on the boundless St. Peter Mission, where he had to undergo many privations and hardships. During the next two years he served New Ulm Mission. During this time he took up new appointments at various places, of which Blue Earth and Rice Lake

deserve special mention. His fourth year in the ministry was spent on Blue Earth Mission. He was ordained as deacon in 1860 and as elder in 1862. After this he served Le Sueur '62-'64; Winona '64-65; Frontenac '65-'66; Independence and Waverly, Iowa, '66-'67; Hutchinson '67-'69; Dakota '69-'71; Oak Ridge '71-'72; East Prarie '72-'75; Paynesville '75-'78; Renville '79-'82; St. Peter '82-'85; Wells '85-'86; Mankato '86-'88; Waseca '88, until he was forced to retire on account of illness. He preached his last sermon on Thanksgiving Day, 1888.

Brother Schmitt was one of the sturdy pioneers of our conference. His educational facilities were limited. He worked hard and endured great hardships for the sake of Christ. He was original in his methods and sermons. When he deemed it necessary he laid down the law to his listeners and bared their sins, and rigorously applied the discipline to transgressors of our church rules. He was privileged to lead many souls to his Saviour.

In August, 1861, he was united in holy wedlock to Christina Lipp, of Cottonwood. This union was blessed with seven children, who grew up to be intelligent and useful citizens of our country. He did all he could to give them a good education. He was a strict, but sensible, father and a loving husband.

For several years he had suffered from a certain ailment which finally undermined his rugged constitution. During his sickness he was patient and resigned to the will of God and continued to take a deep interest in the work of the church. Three weeks before his death he requested that the Lord's Supper be administered to him and his family. Rev. J. G. Simon, his presiding elder, and C. Brill and J. G. Drehmel, his old co-laborers, administered the sacred emblems, amid manifestations of divine power and rejoicing and shouting of the participants. Such scenes cannot be forgotten by those privileged to witness them. He passed to his eternal reward on Feb. 28, 1889, at Waseca, Minn., at the age of 52 years, 4 months and 15 days. His death was caused by heart trouble and pneumonia.

The funeral services were held in the English Methodist Church at Waseca. C. Brill preached on Gen. 24: 56 to a large concourse of people. The deceased had selected this text himself. From here his remains were taken to Mankato, where another service was held, at which H. E. Linse preached on Phil. 1: 21-23, to a large congregation. He was buried in the beautiful Glenwood Cemetery at Mankato. Besides those mentioned above the following ministers were present: H. Bunse, J. Man-

they, C. W. Sydow, Aug. Huelster, M. Gagstetter, G. Britzius, B. Simon, G. Spaeth, F. R. Plantikow, O. Schultz, G. H. Siebold, W. Oehler, G. H. Schaefer and F. Schild. Those present passed a set of suitable resolutions and presented them to the family.

Rev. C. Brill

Christoph Brill was born March 16, 1835, at Oberelsungen, Kurhessen, Germany. In 1854 he came to America, and, after remaining a short time in Muscatine, Iowa, traveled to Preston, Minn., where he made his home for a number of years. He was married to Anna Eliza Wiegand in 1856. When Rev. von Wald visited Preston in 1857 he had C. Brill and wife, among others, in his services. The Word of God soon touched his heart, and in 1858 he was soundly and gloriously converted. The services were held in Christian Rappe's home. Soon after, he felt the call to the ministry, and was licensed as preacher on probation in 1860 and received into the itinerancy by the Wisconsin Conference. He was stationed with J. H. Schmitt on New Ulm Mission. They were a couple of young, fiery, progressive ministers, who traveled far and wide to find new appointments, where they might preach the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ. The next year he was sent with L. von Wald to Buffalo Mission in Wisconsin. In 1862 he was ordained as deacon by Bishop Long, and was stationed on Winona Mission. The next year he was given charge of the extensive Crow River Mission, with E. H. Baumann as his assistant. This field included all the appointments of that time, from Maple Grove to Paynesville. In 1864 he was ordained as elder by Bishop Escher. After this he served the following fields. Crow River '64-'65; Blue Earth '65-'67; Carver '67-'68; St. Paul '68-'70; Sunrise, including St. Paul, '70-'71; St. Paul, Goodrich Avenue, '71-'73; Paynesville '73-'75; Presiding Elder of Mankato District '75-'79; Presiding Elder of Minneapolis District '79-'83; St. Paul, Pine Street '83-'85; Blue Earth '85-'88; Mankato '88-'90. During the last few years of his active ministry his health was impaired, but he continued to preach as long as he could. He retired in 1890, after he had preached for thirty consecutive years. He then moved to St. Paul to spend his remaining years, which, in the providence of God, were to be but one. In his local relation he assisted the ministers as much as he could.

Brother Brill was a unique man. He had a large, corpulent body. It can be truthfully said that he was a great preacher.

Often he swept his audiences with himself, so that all would begin to shout. Many of his revival meetings were crowned with multitudes of converts. A tireless worker at all times, as presiding elder he was a veritable pusher. He would get the men on his district to do things. He went with them to look up new appointments. He was very emotional; the tears, trickling down his cheeks, revealing the feelings of his heart for his listeners. He was, therefore, often termed the "Weeping Prophet."

He was the first man from the ranks of Evangelical members in Minnesota to enter the ministry. He was one of the charter members of this conference. For years he was one of the leaders of the conference. He served eight years as presiding elder, attended three General Conference sessions as delegate, was a trustee of the conference for many years, a member of the Board of Examiners, and held various other offices. He was a good, safe financier.

His matrimonial union not being blessed with any children, he and his wife adopted a little girl, which they gave a comfortable home.

He died of Bright's disease March 25, 1891, at the age of about 56 years. His widow survived him but a few years, when they were reunited in heaven.

The funeral services were held in our Pine Street Church, St. Paul.

Rev. A. Knebel

August Knebel was born Jan. 16, 1836, at Schoenwerder, Prussia. His education he received in the schools of his native country, and his religious training in the State Church. As a young man of 18, he came to America and located for several years in Green County, Wisconsin. In 1859 his parents and their children followed him to this country and in 1860 they all together moved to Paynesville, Minn., and settled on a farm.

He was married in Wisconsin in 1857 to Wilhelmine Giese. This union was blessed with 13 children, of whom five preceded their father into the spirit world.

When he first lived near Paynesville it was a new country, sparsely settled, poor roads, no railroads and no churches. He, being of a religious nature, conducted religious services on Sundays, reading a sermon out of a German Sermon Book, which his father had presented to him when he left the old country,

admonishing him to read in it every day. These were the only divine services in this region until Rev. C. Lahr came, in August, 1861, and preached for the people. As a result of the efforts of the Evangelical ministers a revival ensued, in which a number of people were convicted and converted. Brother Knebel also was converted in 1862, during the pastorate of F. Emde. After this he took a still greater interest in the religious welfare of the community and became a leader among the flock. Soon he realized the call to the ministry, and, after much praying, yielded. He was licensed to preach in 1866 and received into the itinerancy at the same time by the Iowa Conference, and was stationed with Wm. Stegner on the double field, consisting of Hennepin and Carver Missions. John Hammeter was his presiding elder. Here he had to do the work of a pioneer preacher, driving long distances over almost impassable roads, sharing the poverty of the people. For all these sacrifices he was recompensed with the conversion into eternal life by a number of precious souls. The next year he was assigned to Paynesville Mission, his old home, where he remained two years, taking up new appointments in a north-westerly direction. He had good success during these years. He was ordained as deacon in 1868 and as elder in 1870, both times by Bishop Escher. He was a charter member of the Minnesota Conference. After this he was privileged to serve the following fields: '69-'70 Carver; '70-'72 East Prairie; '72-'74 St. Paul, Pine Street; '74-'76 Winona; '76-'79 Preston; '79-'81 Wells; '81-'83 Blue Earth; '83-'86 Presiding Elder of Yankton District, Dakota Conference; '86-'89 Odessa; '89 until his death, Waseca. In all he preached 25 and one-half years.

He was held in high esteem by his brethren, consequently he was elected to important offices in the conference. After he had preached five years he was elected a trustee of the conference and held this office for many years; was a member of the Board of Examiners for years; was conference treasurer and delegate to the session of the General Conference in 1891.

Brother Knebel was a tireless, energetic preacher. He threw his whole soul into his sermons. Everybody could see that he was fully in earnest, as he delivered the divine message of salvation. He would often bend far over his pulpit as if he could not get close enough to the hearts of his listeners. His sermons were prepared by much prayerful study in the closet. He wrestled with God for souls as his hire. Never will he be forgotten

by those who knew him well. Many looked up to him as their spiritual father. He always seemed to be serious, not engaging in trivial conversation or jesting. His character was pure and strong. He avoided the very appearance of evil. His denunciation of sin was severe, yet he had great love for the soul of the sinner.

He was a model husband and father. His family life was ideal. He was strict with his children, yet they loved him dearly. All of his children were highly respected by the communities in which they lived, and members of their father's church. Some time before his death he suffered a nervous stroke which lamed his right side and, later, affected his brain.

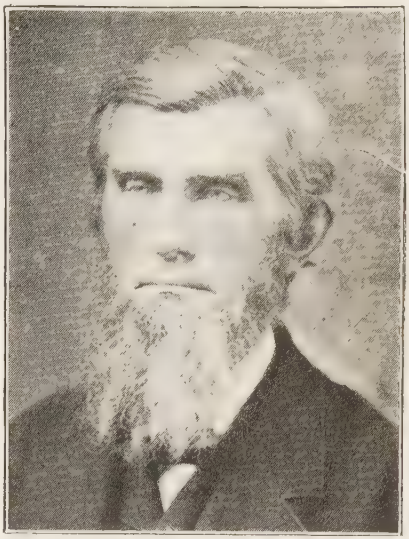
Brother Knebel became so ill at the session of the General Conference at Indianapolis in October, 1891, that he was compelled to leave for home before it closed. He had severe pains in his head. After suffering for some time he died December 4, 1891, at Waseca, Minn., at the age of 55 years, 10 months and 18 days. A funeral service was held at Waseca, at which H. E. Linse preached on Matt. 25: 21. The remains were then taken to Zion, his old home, where another service was held, at which H. Bunse preached on 1 Cor. 15: 44 and 54-57.

He was laid to rest in the Zion Evangelical cemetery, to await the resurrection of the just on the Judgment day. He left to mourn his demise his sorrowing widow, 4 sons and 4 daughters.

Andrew Strohmeier

He was born in Hanover, Germany, April 2, 1826. He was raised in the Lutheran Church, and enjoyed good educational privileges, as he studied for some time for the ministry of that Church. However, when his parents died, he set out, as a young man, full of life and hope, for the new world. For several years in this country he earnestly defended the faith of his church, until he became more intimately acquainted with our church and came to a knowledge of his perverted mind and sinful state through the simple preaching of the Cross of Christ, and was soundly converted. Soon after his conversion he heard the call to the ministry, to preach the Gospel that had rescued him, to a world lost in sin and darkness. But only after the Lord had led him through a siege of affliction, was he able to determine to obey the voice of God. He frequently remarked that his call to the ministry had cost him a greater struggle than his re-

pentance, inasmuch as he keenly felt the great responsibility and extensive influence of the ministerial office. In the spring of 1856 he went to the Illinois Conference, in session at Freeport, Illinois, in the name of the Lord. Here he was licensed as preacher on probation, and stationed on Peru Circuit. Rev. Jacob Himmel was his preacher in charge. They had great success in leading souls to Christ. After two years he was sent to Mount Pulaski, Illinois. Subsequently his conference sent him to Mount Algier, Iowa. He now became a member of the Iowa Conference. Here he served Maquoketo Mission two years, Dubuque two years, and then Lansing, where he remained only one year. In 1866 he was stationed to St. Paul, Minn., where he remained two years. At the organization of the Minnesota Conference in 1868 he joined it as one of its charter members. In it he served the following fields: 1868-'70 East Prairie; 1870-'73 St. Peter and Mankato; 1873-'74 Blue Earth. Then the conference elected him as Presiding Elder. To this office he was elected four times and in it he served 16 years in unbroken succession. He was elected as delegate to the General Conference four times. In the spring of 1890 he located and made his home in Minneapolis. He was in the active ministry for 34 years. During the last years of his life he had the misfortune to break his thigh-bone, which laid him up for some time and made him lame for his remaining years. During many years he suffered from weak nerves.



ANDREW STROHMEIER

Brother Strohmeier was a unique minister. He was a good theologian. His sermons were clear, concise and Biblical. He had a great store of interesting anecdotes, many from incidents of his own experience. These he used with telling effect as illustrations. He never spared sin, but was also a good Gospel preacher. The common people, and especially the young people, loved to hear him. He, therefore, was successful in leading souls to Christ and building up the churches.

On June 7, 1861, he was united in marriage with sister Emily Weke of Scunovers Point, Illinois. Their married life was a happy one. They were blessed with five children, one of whom preceded the father. He left his widow and two sons and two daughters to mourn his departure. Both of his sons, Samuel and Albert, have since died. The daughters, Lydia and Anna, taught in the public schools of Minneapolis for many years.

On Sunday, May 8, 1892, while the ministers were assembled at conference, he preached his last sermons. In the forenoon he preached in the Sixth Avenue church, and in the evening in the Highland Park church, in Minneapolis. On the way to and from the conference session a goodly number of ministers called on him. The conference choir sang for him. On that occasion he asked the author of this history this question: "When God calls a man for the ministry, does he call him for a certain number of years, or for his whole life-time?" I replied: "I think he calls him for all his life-time." He answered: "That is what I believe. If a man is called to the ministry, he is a minister as long as he lives."

He entered his eternal rest on Tuesday morning, May 10, 1892, at 4 o'clock, at the age of 66 years. The funeral services were conducted at the home by H. Isker, his pastor at the time. The funeral sermon was preached by J. G. Simon, an old friend, and a colleague in office, and then Presiding Elder of St. Paul District, on Luke 2: 29, 30, before a large audience. H. E. Linse, another colleague, and a friend of long standing, added some remarks. F. R. Plantikow, Presiding Elder of Minneapolis District, conducted the services at the grave. Twenty-one ministers of the conference attended the funeral services. Thus another great man of the Minnesota Conference was laid to rest. His soul went to God, where he enjoys eternal life, and praises his Lord with others who have gone before, and follow after.

It is impossible to do justice to a life like his in a short biography, but we know that God will do him justice and reward him abundantly.

His family remained in Minneapolis, where mother Strohmeier died in 1920.

Rev. F. Haueter

Frederick Haueter, a son of the pioneer members of our church of Mayer, Christ. and Wilhelmine Haueter, was born Sept. 4, 1870, in the town of Camden, Carver Co., Minn. He was reared

in a Christian home in the fear and admonition of the Lord. In the eleventh year of his life he was soundly converted to God, and took a lively interest in the work of his local church during his youth. After he fully realized his call to the ministry, he attended North-Western College at Naperville, Ill., to better prepare for his high calling. He remained there about two years.

In August, 1893, after he had received his recommendation, he was sent by the presiding elder as assistant pastor to Winona, under the supervision of G. Spaeth. The conference licensed him in the spring of 1894, and he was stationed to Winona, East 4th Street, under the supervision of B. Simon. In the midst of this year his health broke down and he was compelled to retire. In his parental home he recuperated his strength again, and in 1895 was stationed on Bellingham Mission, which he served 1½ years. By this time tuberculosis had so undermined his health, that he had to retire permanently.

In October, 1895, he was united with Clara Sydow in holy matrimony. To them was born one son, James, who, later, became a minister in our conference. After he retired from the active work, he moved to California to regain his health, but in vain. He kept growing weaker, and desiring to reach his parental home before his demise, he left California with his family July 18, 1897, but passed away en route while crossing Arizona. His stricken wife had the remains taken to his old home in Minnesota. He died at the age of 26 years, 10 months and 15 days. The funeral services were held in our church at Mayer. Brother G. Spaeth preached the sermon and other brethren assisted in the services. The brethren Bunse, Manthey, J. G. Simon, Kachel, Seder and Goetz served as pall-bearers. He was buried in the cemetery near Mayer.

Brother Haueter was pious to the core of the heart, and upright. His own religious experiences backed him up in his preaching. Having a good knowledge of the Bible he quoted many Scripture passages to support his assertions. He was pleasant in his association with the people, in which his keen mother-wit often served him well. He gave promise of becoming a useful and prominent minister in our conference, but God had ordained otherwise.

Right here it might be practical to mention that Brother H. was one of four young ministers of our conference who died of tuberculosis within a few years. Three of them associated much with each other while at Naperville. This was a heavy loss to our work.

Rev. William M. Georgius

William Martin Georgius was born Nov. 11, 1865, at Bromberg, Germany. While yet a small child his parents emigrated to America and settled in Wisconsin, where they remained a few years, and then moved to Courtland, Brown County, Minn., and lived on a farm. Here William grew up to manhood. He attended the public school as much as the pressing work of the farm in those days would permit. During his youth he was converted under the ministry of H. Hensel. He was a pious young man, and soon felt the call to the ministry. To fit himself more for this sacred profession he attended North-Western College at Naperville, Ill., where he finished the German course. At the conference session, held at Zion in 1893, he was licensed to preach and was stationed as assistant pastor on Renville Circuit, under the supervision of A. G. Sahr. In 1894 he was sent to Wadena Mission as assistant to A. H. Utzinger. He had been in failing health for some time, yet his condition was not considered serious, but, while on Wadena Mission, his vitality diminished, so that it was with great difficulty that he performed his duties. He was bothered with a cough and pain in the lungs, and toward fall it became difficult for him to preach. Physicians diagnosed his case as tuberculosis, and he was compelled to leave his field and go home to his parents. He spent some time in Colorado to regain his health, but all in vain. He lingered along for several years, and then died at Denver, Colorado, on June 18, 1898, at the age of 32 years, 7 months and 7 days. His remains were brought back to Minnesota and interred in the Courtland cemetery. Appropriate funeral services were conducted in the Courtland Church.

Brother Georgius was a pious, conscientious young man. He was modest and humble, but pleasant and winning in his intercourse with the people. His manners in the pulpit were above criticism, and his sermons were well arranged, full of the Word of God, and delivered with great earnestness. Had God spared his life, he would, undoubtedly, have become a very useful minister in our conference. But God's ways are not our ways. He wanted him in heaven, and so he took him.

Rev. G. Yahn

George Yahn was born Nov. 26, 1817, at Hatten, Alsace. In 1829 he emigrated with his parents to America and settled in Ohio. Later he moved to Wisconsin, and lived there till 1865,

when he came to Minnesota, and located near Kasson, on a farm. He was converted to God in his 34th year, under the ministrations of the brethren Schnake and Fleischer, and joined the Evangelical Association. In 1858 he was licensed to preach by the Wisconsin Conference and served 10 years as a local preacher. After having been active in the local relation for several years in this state he entered the itinerancy of the Minnesota Conference in 1868, becoming one of its charter members. He very acceptably served the following charges: '68-'69 Le Sueur; '69-'70 Waseca; '70-'73 Preston; '73-'75 Redwing; '75-'76 Mound Prairie; '76-'78 without appointment; '78-'79 Waseca; '79-'80 Preston; '80-'82 Mound Prairie; '82-'84 St. Charles; '84-'86 Kasson. Then he located and lived in Kasson the remainder of his life.

He was a pious and faithful servant of Christ, ever desirous of carrying on the work of the Lord to the best of his abilities. He served at a time when heavy pioneer work was required and great self-denial necessary; yet he never wearied, never complained, and was always satisfied with his lot. His sermons were Biblical and Evangelical and proved a blessing to his congregations. He followed Jesus faithfully, ever showing forth the praises of his Master, whom he loved supremely. As a preacher he was highly respected by all, and was eminently successful in leading souls to Christ.

His family life was a happy one. In 1842 he was united in marriage to Magdalene Kobler, and lived with her 54 years in holy wedlock, when she preceded him on June 13, 1894, into the heavenly world. Ten children were born to them. Four sons and four daughters remained to mourn his departure. He proved himself a kind husband and a loving father. His children were brought up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," and are desirous of following the goodly example of their pious father. His son, Henry Yahn, has been an honored lay delegate to our conference for a number of years.

His last years were spent in Kasson. He had good health and a pleasant home with his daughter Delia. It was his pleasure to attend divine services, and was always willing to preach when called upon.

Pneumonia, which he contracted by catching a cold, and from which he suffered three weeks, was the cause of his death. He died in the bright hope of eternal life, and is now at home with the Lord. His end came on March 29, 1900, at the age of 82 years, 4 months and 3 days.

The funeral services were held in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Kasson on a Sunday afternoon. G. W. Hielscher officiated, being assisted by G. Duebendorf, H. Hensel and J. G. Drehmel. Many people attended the obsequies.

The writer of this history wishes to pay father Yahn a personal tribute, for he was my spiritual father. He preached so earnestly and affectionately; the tears streamed down his cheeks as he told of the love of God to sinners, and of the power of the blood of Christ to save. My youthful heart was moved by his appeals to yield to the Spirit of God, and I became a seeker, and after a penitential struggle, was happily converted. How he cared for the young converts! During the remaining years of his life he had a tender spot in his heart for them. I want to meet him over on the other shore.

One more of the links, which connected us with the blessed early years of our conference, was broken by his departure. Our loss was his gain. Let us follow his example.

E. H. Baumann

Emanuel H. Baumann was born May 22, 1841, at Pilsun, Hanover. He was one of the three sons of Herman and Tetje Baumann, who came to America with their family about in the year 1853, and landed at Freeport, Ill. Soon they settled in the "Indian land" country in Wisconsin. In his early years he perceived the influence of the Holy Spirit in his soul, but never made a real religious experience until he came under the influence of the preaching of Rev. Louis Seder. On Feb. 14, 1858, he was happily born into the kingdom of God. His talents and spiritual growth were soon recognized, and he was appointed to hold meetings at various places, and to close the services after the minister had preached. This practice developed his faculty to speak in public. Although not yet licensed, he was sent, soon after the conference session of 1862, as assistant to L. Seder, to New Ulm Mission. His first two sermons he preached at the Preston camp meeting. New Ulm Mission at that time included many appointments, reaching from Rice Lake to above Beaver Creek. In August of this year the Indian massacre occurred, in which his preacher in charge was killed. Brother Baumann was miraculously spared, for he was serving the southern appointments at the time the outbreak occurred. For the remainder of the year he had to serve this large field alone. During the second year of his

ministry he was assistant to C. Brill on the extensive Crow River Mission, which included Paynesville. The third year he served Fort Dodge Mission in Iowa. During this year, on July 14, 1864, he was united in holy matrimony with Emilie A. Willmert of Blue Earth. In 1865 he was stationed to the Des Moines Mission. Here he supervised the building of a church, for which he had to collect much money on other charges. Through over-exertion and privations his health was undermined, and he never fully regained it. From Des Moines he moved to Le Sueur Mission, which he served two years. The first year J. G. Simon was his assistant, and the second G. H. Knebel. Many souls were converted during these years. In 1868, at the first session of the Minnesota Conference, he was stationed on Frontenac Mission, including Rochester and Kasson, with J. von Eschen as his asssistant. Among his converts here were F. G. Sahr and G. Friedrich, who both became successful ministers. The next year he served Rochester Mission. The year 1870-'71 he spent on Winona Mission, as neighbor of I. Kuter, the presiding elder. On Paynesville Circuit he had two successful years. During this time the first Salem's church was built. The next year he served Chaska Mission. From 1874-'76 he spent on Dakota Circuit, during which time he had a great revival, which built up the work materially. In all 61 souls were saved.

In the spring of 1876 he was appointed by the conference as solicitor for the conference debt, which had accumulated by the building of various churches. He was engaged at this for six months, in which time he collected $3193.75, nearly liquidating the whole debt. After this for two and one-half years he served Mound Prairie Circuit, leading 40 souls to an experience of religion. From 1879-'82 he had charge of Kasson Circuit. In his first year here he had a great revival, resulting in 44 conversions. For some time he could not get any results from the meeting. There was trouble in the congregation, which estranged various families. One evening he conducted a reconciliation service, persuading the contending parties to make up with each other. Finally the ice broke, they were reconciled, and many, many were saved and the whole church was quickened. The conference next stationed him on Goodrich Avenue Mission in St. Paul, which he served about 1½ years. Upon the death of Wm. Stegner he was given charge of Minneapolis Mission and remained there until 1885. Parts of the years 1885 and 1886 he spent soliciting funds for the new St. Paul Pine Street church. Then he resided in

Minneapolis a few years without an appointment. When in the fall of 1889 J. I. Seder vacated the Highland Park Mission in Minneapolis, Brother Baumann filled out the unexpired year. Soon after this he moved to Blue Earth, where he spent the remaining years of his life.

Rev. and Mrs. Baumann were not blessed with children of their own, but they raised one of his brother's boys, Herman Baumann.

Through inheritance and wise investments Brother B. acquired considerable property, so that they could afford to get some pleasure out of this life. They made a trip to Germany together, visiting the places of their birth, also getting in touch with our work, and seeing the sights in general. They also toured Switzerland, admiring its enchanting scenery. They also saw about all that was worth seeing in this country, spending several winters in California. They also liberally remembered various organizations of the church.

Brother Baumann was quite a poet. He wrote poems for various occasions, such as weddings, jubilee services, etc. One of his poems in memory of Rev. L. Seder was published in the *Evangelische Magazin.*

He wrote a beautiful hand. He was secretary of the Minnesota Conference twice, and assistant several times.

He suffered with various ailments for several years. He lost in weight and gradually grew weaker. Stomach and liver diseases finally caused his death on Feb. 9, 1903. He was resigned to the will of God in all his pains. His wife and others faithfully ministered to his wants to the last. He reached the age of 61 years, 8 months and 17 days. J. Gongoll, his pastor, had charge of the funeral services. G. Spaeth, the presiding elder, preached in the German language, and H. Plantikow in the English. Other brethren were present and took part in the services. His remains rest in the cemetery at Blue Earth, awaiting the resurrection morn.

Rev. M. Gagstetter

Martin Gagstetter, of blessed memory, was born October 27, 1844, at St. Jacobs, Canada. He came, while yet a young boy, with his parents to Minnesota in 1855. They settled on a farm about five miles south of St. Paul, which was then but a small town. His parents had been members of our church in Canada, and longed for the services of an Evangelical minister in their

new home, so they wrote to their former pastor to see to it that one would be sent them. The request was granted by the Wisconsin Conference, which sent Rev. Tarnutzer as the first missionary to Minnesota. Martin was converted at a camp meeting at East Prairie when about 18 years of age, and joined the Evangelical Association. He enlisted in the United States Army, in the First Battery of Minnesota Artillery, on March 3, 1865, and was honorably discharged on July 1, 1865.

After his discharge he worked on a farm, which he owned, near New Trier. He was married to Mary Wolf, of East Prairie, a sister of John P. Wolf. This union was blessed with three children, one of whom, a boy, was drowned some years later in a river near Le Sueur. He had the misfortune to lose his wife by death. In the course of time he was again married, this time to Bertha Krueger of Deerfield, with whom he had ten children.

After his conversion he became quite active in the church, serving as class leader and as Sunday-school superintendent. He soon became conscious of a call to the ministry. At the conference session at Blooming Grove, in 1878, he was licensed to preach, and the next year was received into the itinerancy. In 1880, at Racine, he was ordained as deacon, and two years later as elder. His first field was Waseca, where he remained two years, the first with G. Yahn as his pastor in charge, and the second with J. G. Simon. After this he served the following fields: Le Sueur '80-'83; Lamberton '83-'85; Renville '85-'88; Sleepy Eye '88-'91; Blue Earth City '91-'94; Wells '94-'98; Paynesville '98-'01; Kasson '01-'04. In the spring of 1904 he was stationed to Hutchinson, but during the year his health gave away, and B. Simon had to take charge of the field in the late fall. Brother Gagstetter could not take a field in 1905, but remained in Hutchinson. He gradually grew weaker and was called from labor to reward June 23, 1905, at the age of 60 years, 7 months and 26 days. Bright's disease was the cause of his death. He had served in the active ranks of the ministry 26 and one-half years.

Brother Gagstetter was a true man of God. He was firm in his convictions, and stood by the truth; fearless in denouncing sin of all shades, but yet kind and sympathetic. He was blessed with good lungs and a strong voice, so that he could be heard distinctly in any church, or in the open air meetings. Deprived of a higher education, he studied his Bible and his commentaries, so that he was able to preach powerful sermons, which went to the hearts of the people. In his revival meetings he manifested great

faith and tenacity, and kept on until he had the victory. At Sleepy Eye while holding a protracted meeting, everything seemed cold and dead, and the people wished that the meetings might close, but he kept on. He spent much time in fasting and praying, so, at last, the break came, and he had a glorious meeting, in which about 30 souls were happily converted, some of whom became pillars in the church. At Lamberton, Blue Earth, Wells and other fields he had successful revivals.

He was a good conversationalist, having the faculty to entertain others with his conversations. People loved to hear him tell his stories.

His funeral services were held in Hutchinson. Bishop W. Horn, being in the state at that time, preached the sermon. H. Plantikow, his presiding elder, also took part. A number of other ministers were present. His remains were laid to rest in the Hutchinson cemetery. He left to mourn his death, his wife and 12 children. His widow and some of the children reside in Minneapolis at this time. May God grant them a happy reunion in heaven!

Rev. F. C. Schmidt

Rev. Frederick Carl Schmidt was born in Tuerstenfelde, Prussia, July 7, 1843. When five years of age he came with his parents to this country. His childhood and youth were spent at Lomira, Wis. At the beginning of the Civil War he enlisted as a volunteer in Company H, 36th Illinois, for a term of three years. At the expiration of this period he re-enlisted and served until the end of the war. During this time he took an active part in a number of battles, was wounded and taken a prisoner, but soon made his escape.

After the end of the war he came to St. Charles, Minn., where he lived on a farm for some time. In 1865 he was married to Miss Augusta Zimmermann. This union was blessed with five children. After ten years of happy wedlock his wife died. Three of their children preceded their father in death. Four years later, on April 21, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Ellen A. Hacklander, of Blue Earth. To them were given three sons and two daughters. Brother Schmidt was a kind husband and a loving father, always greatly concerned about the welfare of his family.

He was converted in 1875, under the labors of Brother Kienholz, and united with the Evangelical church. Shortly after his conversion he felt the call to the ministry. In the spring of 1876 he was licensed as preacher on probation by the Minnesota Conference. In 1878 he was ordained as deacon, and in 1880 as elder. The first year of his active service he spent on Kasson Circuit as assistant to G. von Eschen. After that he served: New Auburn '77-'80; St. Cloud '80-'83; Elizabeth '83-'86; Fairmont '86-'89; Luverne '89-'92; Preston '92-'95; St. Charles '95-'99; Worthington '99-1902; Bellingham '02-'03. As a minister he was earnest, faithful and conscientious and served his appointments punctually. His services were acceptable and successful. He preached the Word with great liberty and the blessings of the Master rested upon his labors. He was enabled to point many souls to the cross of Christ. It is worthy of note that he remained his full term on every field, as pastor in charge, until his health gave away, which was at Worthington.

Although not well, he accepted an appointment in 1902, but was compelled to locate the next spring. A bullet, which he had received during the war, had never been removed. Physicians declared that it had moved in the body in later years, and at times pressed upon an important nerve. He would, therefore, get spells, even while he was preaching, when his mind seemed blank for a few minutes. After these were over he was all right again. He located in 1903 and settled in Blue Earth, where he carried on a little agricultural work. He was not idle here in church affairs, but preached whenever called upon. He was elected class leader of the local church, in which office he served very acceptably. He suffered on account of improper action of the heart. As time advanced he grew weaker, but was always up and about, doing a little work. He died very suddenly and unexpectedly on Wednesday morning, Jan. 31, 1906, at the age of 62 years, 6 months and 26 days.

He left, to mourn his departure, his sorrowing wife, 3 sons and 4 daughters, besides many other relatives, and a host of warm friends. Two of his brothers, August and Gustave, were ministers of our conference in previous years.

The funeral services took place on Friday, Feb. 2d, at 2 o'clock, in the Evangelical church at Blue Earth. M. Schoenleben, his pastor, preached in the German, and A. H. Utzinger in the English language. The ministerial co-laborers, J. Kienholz, J. Manthey, J. G. Simon, C. W. Sydow, C. F. Kachel and W. A.

Juedes, assisted in the services. Rev. C. F. Sydow, his brother-in-law, and Rev. A. C. Schmidt, his brother, were among the mourners. His remains were laid at rest in the beautiful Blue Earth cemetery. He went to receive his reward from the hands of a kind heavenly Father. He was missed on earth, and welcomed in heaven. His widow moved to California some years later, where she is still living.

Rev. A. G. Sahr

The deceased, Albert Gustave Sahr, was born Dec. 15, 1852, at Soldin, Brandenburg, Germany. In 1856 his parents came to America, and settled, with their family, in Marquette County, Wisconsin. In 1866 they moved on a farm at Hay Creek, near Redwing, Minn. In 1868 he was led to a thorough religious experience, probably under the labors of F. Emde. He soon felt the call to the ministry, but for years he held back, for he had only a common education, and was of a quiet disposition, and never pushed himself forward. Yet he was endowed with good talents, which became more manifest after he entered the work. After considerable urging he consented to enter the ministry, and was licensed to preach in 1886, at Courtland. He served the following fields: '86-'88 Appleton; '88-'91 Arlington; '91-'94 Renville; '94-'98 Sleepy Eye; '98-'01 Crow River; '01-'05 Hammond; '05-'06 Rochester. He had good success and was well liked on all these fields. On some fields he held good revivals, resulting in many conversions. His sermons were plain, clear, to the point, and full of power. In his intercourse with the people he was friendly, discreet, and winning. At conference sessions and district meetings he seldom uttered a word on the floor. Toward the sick he was sympathetic and cheered them. He was a man of prayer. His public prayers often brought showers of blessing down upon the audience.

It seemed as though he had a premonition of his approaching end. His last sermons were especially effective. Two weeks before his demise he preached on the text, "Thy Will Be Done." The people said that it was an extraordinary sermon. His departure came suddenly. On Friday morning he arose and did his chores as usual. He was to go to Kasson that day to hold a quarterly meeting for his presiding elder. This may have excited him a little. After the family worship he went out, but soon came in again, leaned upon a chair, and said: "I will die."

He told his son where his private papers were. A physician was hurriedly summoned, but, in spite of all he could do, he passed away within an hour of the first attack. Heart failure was the cause of his death. It is remarkable that three years later his brother, Rev. F. G. Sahr, died in the same way. He died June 1, 1906, at the age of 53 years, 5 months and 16 days.

He was married to Louise Lenz, in 1875. This union was blessed with eight children, one of whom preceded him in death. He did not leave his family much money, but he left them the heritage of a noble Christian life, and a spotless character. He left to mourn his departure, his sorrowing wife, 3 sons, 4 daughters, 3 brothers and 3 sisters, and other relatives and many friends.

The funeral services took place in Kasson, where Aug. Huelster preached the sermon to a large concourse of people. H. Plantikow was requested to preach, but could not be present. None of the presiding elders could attend. F. R. Plantikow followed with some remarks. Kachel, Wolthausen, F. P. Werner, Graeben, Geyman and Lippert served as pall-bearers. He was laid to rest in the Kasson cemetery. Rev. F. W. Lenz was a brother-in-law of the departed. The voice of the messenger is hushed, but the message goes on.

Rev. F. G. Sahr

Frederick Gustave Sahr, a son of John and William Sahr, was born at Daetz, Prussia, Nov. 9, 1848. When he was seven years of age, his parents came to America and settled near Princeton, Wisconsin. Here young Frederick was instructed in the Catechism and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. In 1866 the Sahr family moved to Hay Creek, Minn., near Redwing. At this place the young man was influenced, under the labors of E. H. Baumann, to seek Christ as his Saviour, and, after a prolonged penitential struggle, was happily and thoroughly converted into eternal life, at the age of twenty years. He at once joined the Evangelical Association and became active in the church. In the office of class leader he developed special talents and was helpful to the building up of the local congregation. Soon after his conversion he perceived the call to the ministry, but hesitated to obey, because he realized his lack of the necessary education. After much prayer and meditation and pressure from brother ministers, he yielded, and was licensed to preach by the Minnesota Conference, in session at Blue Earth, in 1872. In the fall of that year

he was sent as supply to Hutchinson Mission to assist F. Emde on his large field. At the next conference session he was stationed as assistant to E. J. Hielscher on the double charge, consisting of Kasson Circuit and Rochester Mission. He made his home with the Peter Utzinger family at Middlebranch. Here he remained only six months, when he was transferred to Jackson Mission to assist W. Oehler. In 1874 he was ordained as deacon, and in 1876 as elder, both times by Bishop Escher. From 1874 to '77 he served Bigstone Mission, which was a very extensive field. Here he achieved great success, securing 70 conversions. Next he served Mankato Mission three years with some success. From 1880-'83 he served Olivet Mission in Dakota. At the session of the Minnesota Conference, in 1883, when the work in Dakota was separated from that in Minnesota, he consented to remain in Dakota. In the Dakota Conference he acceptably served the following fields: Yankton 1883-'85; Bigstone '85-'88; Aberdeen '88-'90; Fargo '90-'91; Casselton '91-'92. At this time he asked for his credentials from the Dakota Conference and was gladly received into the Minnesota Conference again. In Minnesota he served Highland Park '92-'93; East Prairie '93-'96; St. Cloud '96-1900; Mankato 1900-'04; Lamberton '04-'08. In 1908 he was stationed on Le Sueur Mission, which he served one year and two months, to the time of his death. He preached about 37 years without interruption; 28 in the Minnesota and 9 in the Dakota Conference.

He was a hard worker, was busy from early morning till late at night, and knew no rest, excepting when he slept. He served large charges, traveling long distances in all kinds of weather. In giving catechetical instruction he was diligent and faithful. He held many revival meetings with good success. Many souls called him their spiritual father. At Lamberton he worked very hard, where he supervised the building of the church in town.

Brother Sahr was a good preacher. His sermons were textual, systematic, full of the Word of God, and often quite powerful. At revival meetings he exercised faith in God, and hoped for success where others despaired. He held on where others gave up.

As a pastor he was diligent, faithful and careful. He was no gossiper. In his pastoral calls he spoke with the family about spiritual things and prayed with them. He was well liked on all the fields he served and was esteemed by the community in general.

On July 25, 1877, he was joined in holy matrimony with Anna Regina Reinking, of Maple Grove, Minn., with whom he shared

the joys and burdens of a family life for nearly 32 years. This union was blessed with 3 sons and 5 daughters. Brother Sahr's family life was an ideal one. He was a loving, faithful husband, and a tender, yet firm, father. He was greatly concerned for the welfare of his dear ones, and practiced much self-denial for their sake. Most of all, he was interested in their spiritual welfare. How he rejoiced when, one after another, his children were happily converted! It was his expressed desire that they should remain with the church of their parents.

He had been ailing some in health for several years, but still he kept on working. On Thursday morning, June 24, 1909, at Le Sueur, he experienced a stroke of apoplexy. He arose as usual and did his morning work. At nine o'clock he came into the house, sat down by the table, rested his head upon his hand, and sank, at once, peacefully, into the arms of death without a word or a struggle. Before any one could realize what was happening, his spirit had departed to the realms of light. On the previous Sunday he filled his appointments as usual, and on Wednesday evening led the prayer meeting. That was his last official work. He reached the age of 60 years, 7 months and 15 days.

He left to mourn his so sudden departure his sorrowing wife, 3 sons, 5 daughters and other relatives and many friends. His family soon after moved to Minneapolis, where they still reside. May they all meet him in heaven!

A funeral service was held at Le Sueur on Monday afternoon, June 28th, at which A. H. Utzinger, presiding elder, preached on Matt. 25: 21. G. W. Hielscher preached in the English language on Phil. 1: 21. The brethren J. G. Simon, B. Simon and others assisted. His remains were then taken to St. Paul, where another service was held in our Pine Street church, at which Bishop S. C. Breyfogel preached, having for his text Deut. 33: 27. J. G. Simon, an old friend of the family, spoke briefly. His body was laid to rest in the beautiful Oakland cemetery of St. Paul to await the resurrection morning.

Another beautiful life came to an end here on earth, but blossoms on in eternal fragrance in the higher realms of heaven.

Rev. F. W. Siebel

Frederick William Siebel was born at Solingen, Germany, Feb. 24, 1869. In 1875 his parents, with their family, came to America, and settled at Rice Lake, near Wells, Minn. Here the

subject of this sketch received a common school education, and some religious instruction in the Sunday-school and in the catechism class. Being open to the truths of the Word of God, he was awakened and soundly converted under the preaching of J. G. Drehmel. He made use of the means of grace and developed in spiritual life. After some years he realized the call to the ministry. In preparation for his sacred calling he attended St. Paul Park College.

At the conference session at Zion, Zion Circuit, in 1893, he was licensed to preach, and was stationed with G. Britzius on Wells Circuit, the field on which he was raised. The next year he served Amboy Mission. At Racine, in 1895, he was ordained as deacon by Bishop Breyfogel, and stationed on Le Sueur Center Mission. The following year he had charge of Frontenac Mission. At Blue Earth, in 1897, he was ordained as elder by Bishop Bowman and stationed on Otter Tail Mission. He served Elizabeth Mission 1898-1901; Luverne '01-'04; Le Sueur Center again '04-'06; Appleton '06-'07. During this last year he became afflicted with pulmonary troubles, which weakened him so, that he was compelled to retire from the active service in the spring of 1907. He then moved to Wells, and later to Albert Lea with some relatives of his. During the years of his retirement he was not able to do much of anything. Occasionally he would preach, but with great difficulty. About six weeks before his death he was taken with hemorrhages again, and rapidly grew weaker until he passed away peacefully on Monday morning, Dec. 27, 1909, at the age of 40 years, 10 months and 3 days.

Brother Siebel was an upright and pious man. As a minister he was humble, conscientious and faithful. He had only ordinary talents, which he used to the glory of God. It was his privilege to lead some souls to his Saviour.

In 1895 he was married to Zilla Ganzkow, of Dunbar, Minn. To them were born two children, one of whom died in infancy. He left to mourn his death, his beloved wife, one son and one adopted son, aged father, and other relatives. The funeral services occurred at Wells, where the deceased died. A. H. Utzinger, the presiding elder, preached the funeral sermon on Dan. 12: 3 in the German language, and C. F. Kachel spoke in the English language. Six other Evangelical ministers were present. A large concourse of people were present, attesting their high esteem of the deceased. His remains were laid to rest in the Wells cemetery, to await the blast of Gabriel's trumpet on the last day.

OBITUARIES OF THE DEPARTED MINISTERS

Rev. F. W. Lenz

Frederick William Lenz was born June 23, 1841, at Soldin, Prussia. In May, 1855, he started with his parents for America. They were seven weeks crossing the ocean. At Princeton, Wis., they settled down. In 1858 he was soundly converted to God, and at once took active part in the church services. He was soon elected as class leader, in which capacity he developed the talent of speaking in public, and became a blessing to many souls. In the early sixties he went to Minnesota, and settled on a farm at Hay Creek, Goodhue Co. In 1863 he joined the army and helped quell the Indian uprising. Later he became a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and served as chaplain at various posts.

Nov. 1, 1865, he was joined in the bonds of holy matrimony with Augusta Sahr.

Influenced by the call of God, he consented to enter the ministry and was licensed as preacher on probation in 1871, at St. Paul. Undoubtedly he had served on a field nearly a year before he was licensed, for he was ordained as deacon in 1872 and as elder in 1874. He served the following fields: '70-'71 Oak Ridge; '71-'73 Maple Grove; '73-'76 Sauk Center; '76-'79 Crow River; '79-'82 Paynesville; '82-'85 Dakota; '85-'86 Rochester; '86-'89 Preston; '89-'92 Odessa; '92-'95 Winthrop; '95-'97 Le Sueur; '97-'99 Courtland; '99-1900 St. Charles. He preached for 30 years without interruption. He was getting along in years, and for other reasons he deemed it necessary to locate. He settled down in St. Paul, where he lived for nine years. Then he went to Florida to oversee some property in which he was interested. There he died alone and suddenly of heart trouble at the age of 69 years, 11 months and 2 days, on May 25, 1911.

Brother Lenz was a true Christian, an earnest man of God, and a useful minister. Many souls were saved under his labors, and several ministers are his spiritual sons. The pious members on all fields which he served were much attached to him. He loved his church and was deeply interested in the kingdom of God. His sermons were well prepared, systematic, clear and often powerful. His manner of delivery and his gestures in the pulpit were pleasing. He was a man of much and effective prayer. With earnest intercession to God he prepared himself for his duties. The revelation of the many prayers of such men, in heaven, will be interesting. In his intercourse with other ministers he was courteous, confidential and upright. He had such winning ways!

At one time he was sent to a field where there had been much trouble and a number of people had been expelled from the church, with the direction to straighten out matters again. It was no easy task, but with confidence in God he undertook it. He soon won the hearts of the people by his earnest sermons, and his upright and friendly intercourse, got them all to come to the church services, united the factions, held great revival meetings, and secured 114 converts in the three years he served the field.

His last years were rather sad. He had not been able to save much money, and so he had to work yet to make a living. He left his wife, 4 sons, 1 daughter and other relatives. A memorial service was held on June 18th in our Winifred Street church, St. Paul. The brethren J. G. Simon and J. Kienholz, co-laborers of the deceased for many years, touchingly spoke on his life and labors. Thus another herald of the cross was called to report at the great headquarters.

A. Reeck

August Ferdinand Reeck was born July 24, 1861, at Schoenfeld, Province of Brandenburg, Germany. He spent his childhood and youth in the home of his parents, attending the schools of his home town, and receiving religious instruction from the pastor of the state church and the school teacher. In the year 1882 he came to America with his parents and their family, and located near Paynesville, Minn., on a farm. He was anxious to learn the language of this country, and, therefore, attended the public school, not disdaining to be in a class with small children. He was a good student and made commendable progress. The whole family attended Salem's Evangelical church, and, in course of time, were all converted and became members of the church. After some hesitation August yielded to the voice of the Spirit and the earnest invitations of his pastor, C. F. Sydow, and was soundly converted Dec. 16. 1885. He perceived the call to the ministry soon after, but hesitated to obey, considering himself unqualified for this high calling. Accordingly he worked at manual labor, neglecting the call of God. At the conference session at Salem, his home church, Brother Linse, presiding elder of Minneapolis District, spoke with him very earnestly about the Divine call, and his duty in the face of the lack of ministers. Finally he yielded and was licensed to preach in 1889, at the conference session held in the Winifred Street church, St. Paul. He had then already preached about

one year as assistant pastor on Farmington charge. He continued on this field another year. He was ordained as deacon in 1890 and as elder in 1892.

He served the following fields: Farmington '88-'90; Mankato '90-'92; Fairmont '92-'95; Rochester '95-'98; Renville '98-1902; St. Charles '02-'06; Wells '06-'11; Waseca '11 until his death, or nearly one year. He was well liked and had success on every field he served.

Brother Reeck was endowed with remarkable natural and spiritual gifts. His personal appearance and his manners were pleasing. His strong intellect, his firm determination, and his emotional tenderness, well blended, aptly qualified him for his work. His sermons were systematic, instructive, and effective. He was a man of unquestionable piety and uprightness. One of his best parishioners once said: "Brother R. cannot draw the people like his predecessor could, but he is much more pious." He aimed to do right in all things. He hated shallowness and hypocrisy, therefore he was thorough in all of his work. He was fearless, and called sin by its right name. He was pleasant and agreeable in his intercourse with the people. A vein of humor often manifested itself in his conversations. Usually the longer he was on a field the more the people loved and respected him. He was a man of much and earnest prayer. In his revival meetings he plead incessantly with God for the power of the Holy Ghost, so that God's children might be sanctified and sinners converted. He, therefore, always built up the fields which were entrusted to his care.

On April 26, 1888, he was joined in holy wedlock with Martha Nehring, at St. Cloud, by Rev. A. C. Schmidt. This union was blessed with one daughter and four sons. He was a faithful husband and a tender father. His desire was to give his children a good education, and to rear them in the admonition and nurture of the Lord. His children were obedient to him, and gave their hearts to Christ in early youth. His home life, therefore, was a happy one.

Although he was physically robust and strong, yet during his last years an ailment set in which caused him considerable trouble. Yet no one had the least suspicion that he should be called from our midst so soon. During his last year he served Waseca Circuit, preaching three times every Sunday and doing much other work. On Easter Sunday morning he preached a powerful sermon on the resurrection of Christ. It was to be his last sermon

here on earth. After going to his home he received a paralytic stroke, and had to go to bed. Even then his family and others had no thought of his impending death. He was still able to speak, and his mind was clear. On Monday morning another stroke ended his earthly career quite suddenly. He died in the full faith of the Master. His sudden demise was a great shock to his family, to the members of his charge, and to the whole conference. He died on the morning of April 8, 1912, at the age of 50 years, 8 months and 14 days.

The funeral services were held at Waseca on Friday afternoon, April 12th. H. Plantikow, Presiding Elder of St. Paul District, preached in the German language on Matt. 25: 21, and A. H. Utzinger, Presiding Elder of Minneapolis District, in the English on 2 Sam. 1: 26, and M. Schoenleben, Presiding Elder of Mankato District, officiated in the home, and took part in the services in the church. C. F. Sydow, the deceased's spiritual father, led in prayer. His remains were laid to rest in the beautiful Waseca cemetery. There were 30 ministers of our conference present at the funeral services. Gone, but not forgotten. His works do follow him.

He left to mourn his death, his wife, one daughter, four sons and other relatives and many friends. His family later moved to the state of Washington.

Rev. J. G. Simon

John George Simon was born June 30, 1845, at Wissmar, Prussia. In 1860 his father came to America with his family, and lived near St. Paul a few years. Then they moved on a farm in the town of Hollywood, Carver County. Here the family came under the influence of Evangelical ministers and were all converted. George was converted under the labors of John Hammeter, of blessed memory. He quickly developed in spiritual life and manifested good talents. He was, therefore, elected class leader at the early age of 17. The church was soon convinced that this consecrated young man was called of God for the ministry and recommended him for this sacred office. He, himself, distinctly felt the divine call, but hesitated to yield to it for some time, on account of a lack of education, being of a timid disposition. Even before he was 21 years of age, he entered the ministry. He was licensed to preach by the Iowa Conference, in

May, 1866, and appointed with H. E. Linse to Mankato Mission. The next year he served with L. von Wald on Cannon River Mission. In 1868, when the Minnesota Conference was organized, he became a charter member of it. At this time he was ordained as deacon, and two years later as elder. At this conference session he was appointed to Hennepin Mission, the present Maple Grove, and served it two years, the last year also having charge of Sunrise Mission. Here he had to travel many miles, being away from home much of the time. During this time he was married to Louise Drehmel on May 18, 1869. They lived one year with W. Stegner and family in the old log parsonage; the Stegners occupying the larger room and the Simons the smaller. From now on he served the following charges: Le Sueur '70-'71; Rochester '71-'73; New Ulm '73-'76; St. Peter '76-'79; Waseca '79-'82; Winona '82-'85; Minneapolis '85-'88; Presiding Elder of Mankato District '88-'92; Presiding Elder of St. Paul District '92-'96; St. Paul, Pine Street '96-'98; Wells '98-'02; Brainerd '02-'04; Faribault '04-'06; Chaska '06-'08; South St. Paul '08-'10; Chaska '10-'11. In 1906 he moved to St. Paul, from which place he served his subsequent charges. After having preached for 45 successive years, he was compelled to remain without work at the conference session of 1911. He lived almost through the following year, dying shortly before the next session, on April 23, 1912. He reached the age of 66 years, 9 months and 23 days. The cause of his death was heart trouble, from which he suffered for some years.

His married life was a happy one. Their home was blessed with nine children: 5 sons and 4 daughters. One son preceded him in death. His widow and children continued to reside in St. Paul. One of his brothers, B. Simon, was a minister of our conference for many years.

Brother Simon was a truly consecrated servant of the Lord. Very conscientiously he performed the duties of his high calling, being a blessing to the church and the world. He had a strong sense of righteousness, and stood firm as a rock for the rights of the church and the kingdom of God. The old landmarks of the fathers of our church were of great importance to him, and with Christian fortitude he stood for them. The sacred pledges he made at his ordinations, as well as the great responsibility of his calling, were continually before his spiritual eye. His sermons were thorough, instructive, Biblical. He delivered them in a very earnest manner. He knew what he said, and said

it as though he meant it, and proved his assertions by the Scriptures. His sermons contained much material for reflection. His association with the people was pleasing. He was friendly and sympathetic, and could gain and hold the confidence of many people. Wherever he was, among the people, in the pulpit, in places of business, he preserved the dignity of his calling. Therefore he was highly respected by all who knew him. He was Presiding Elder for eight years, including the time of the "church trouble." It was due to his tactful and firm management of affairs that some of our congregations were not divided. He attended three General Conference sessions as a delegate from our conference. He was entrusted with many offices by his conference.

The funeral services were held in the Winifred Street church. A large concourse of people were present. H. Plantikow, his presiding elder, preached the principal sermon in the German language. G. Spaeth and A. H. Utzinger also spoke. C. W. Sydow, an old friend and co-worker of the departed, officiated at the home. C. A. Tesch, the pastor of the local church, had charge of the services. The brethren Isker, Schulz, Mueller, Britzius, Geyman and Goetz acted as pall-bearers. His remains were laid to rest in the beautiful Oakland cemetery of St. Paul, to await the resurrection morn. As a ripened shock of grain he was gathered into the heavenly garner. Many souls, which he was privileged to lead to Christ here below, greeted him there. His is a crown bedecked with jewels of immortal glory.

Rev. J. L. Stegner

John Lorenz Stegner was born Nov. 15, 1834, at Ebersdorf, Saxe-Coburg, Germany. His parents died while he was young; he never knew his mother, and lost his father at the age of 15. Of nine children he was the youngest. In 1852 he came to America, and after remaining in Chicago several months, went to Michigan, where he worked in a saw-mill for seven years. From there he went to Lomira, Wis. Here, at a camp meeting, he was converted to God, in 1859. G. Zellhoefer was the pastor of Lomira Circuit at that time. From this time on it was his earnest desire to serve God with all his heart, and had many joys in the religious services. At the same time a longing to do special work for his Saviour, who had done so much for him, was awakened in his heart. Meanwhile he moved to Minnesota, near Hay Creek, on a farm. The call to the ministry became stronger, and more

insistent, but he met it with two objections: First, he thought he was incapable of performing the duties of a minister, and, second, he had made considerable debt, and believed he could not conscientiously answer the disciplinary question concerning debts. Now he made the acceptance of the call a subject of many prayers, and promised God that he would obey it as soon as he had his debts paid. This took him eight years. That was during and after the Civil War, when the cost of living was high and interest on money at the rate of 15 to 25 per cent. With a clear conscience he went to the session of the conference at Pleasant Grove, in 1870, and received a license as preacher on probation. His first field was Sunrise Mission, a charge without boundaries, and with only three members. He had to move three times during the year. The people were extremely poor, yet they longed for God's Word. Long trips over sandy roads had to be made, and many privations endured.

After this he served the following charges: '71-'73 Kasson; '73-'76 St. Peter; '76-'79 Wells; '79-'80 Mound Prairie; '80-'83 Preston; '83-'85 Rochester; '85-'88 Winona; '88-'91 St. Paul, Pine Street; '91-'93 East Prairie; '93-'94 St. Paul, West 7th Street; '94-'95 Chaska; '95-'03 without appointment; '03-'04 Chaska; '04-'08 Princeton; '08-'10 without appointment; 1910-'12 South St. Paul. From 1893 on he lived in St. Paul and either served small missions or sustained a retired relation. He was a minister of the Gospel for 42 years, 32 of which in the active ranks. During his last year here on earth his health failed and he was confined to his bed for some time. On May 11, 1912, shortly after the annual conference session, the Lord called his servant home at the ripe age of 77 years, 5 months and 26 days. The funeral services were held in the St. Paul, Winifred Street church, near which he had lived for so many years. Quite a number of ministers were present. Bishop Horn preached the funeral sermon, and H. Plantikow and A. H. Utzinger and others took part in the services.

Brother Stegner was married to Emilie Henkel in 1862, with whom he lived in holy wedlock for about 50 years. They had no children of their own, but adopted and raised two girls and one boy. His wife and adopted daughters mourned his death.

Brother Stegner was friendly and pleasant in his intercourse with the people, and was loved and highly respected by nearly all who knew him. His education was limited, yet he used the German language quite correctly. When he started out he was a

weak preacher, but through hard study and practice he developed so that he became a powerful minister. He led many souls to Christ. His parishioners thought much of him. He still lingers in the memory of many of the older members of our church.

It was his good fortune to acquire enough of this world's goods that he never needed the support of the conference.

Rev. C. W. Sydow

Charles Frederick William Sydow was born Aug. 8, 1844, at Bruegge in the province of Brandenburg, Prussia. His parents —Godfred and Louise Sydow—were God-fearing and loving parents, who tried to train their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and always greatly concerned for the welfare of their children.

When six years of age public school life began. Love for study, especially the Scripture stories, made wonderful impressions upon this child. His progress in school work was so rapid and exceptional that a special permit was granted for his confirmation before the established age limit.

After his confirmation he remained at home until his 22nd year, when he was drafted into army service. He received his full gymnasium and military training. In his autobiography he has recorded many of the events which took place during the years of rigid discipline and the struggles to lead a godly life among the temptations and companions who were ungodly and often most immoral.

On the first day of June, 1870, he landed in the harbor of New York, with one of his friends. They first started for Richmond, Virginia, from here to Lansing, Iowa, and, later, to St. Charles, Minn., where he made his home with his uncle.

Brother Sydow was soundly converted in his native country in his 19th year under the labors of a pious and godly pastor of the Moravian Church or Brethren, as they styled themselves. His spiritual struggle was brief but intense, until he came to a full realization of the forgiveness of his sins and the full consciousness that he was now a child of God and heir to eternal life.

From this time on devotional meetings were held in his father's house, since some of the family had previously made a conscious experience of personal salvation. The victorious death of a brother was one of the direct influences that led to a complete surrender.

In 1871 he united with the Evangelical Association at St. Charles, Minnesota. This step he never regretted during all his life, making a change in all his plans for going back to his native country. Soon after uniting with the church he was elected exhorter, and then he began to feel the call to the ministry.

In the spring of the same year he was licensed by the Minnesota Conference during its session at St. Paul, as a preacher on probation. In 1873, at the conference session at Salem, he was ordained as deacon, and in 1875 elder's orders were voted him at the East Prairie conference session. In 1892, at Crow River Conference, he was elected as Presiding Elder and was stationed on the Mankato District, serving it loyally and faithfully.

He served the following fields during his ministry: 1871-'73 Carver; 1873-'74 St. Paul (Goodrich Ave.); 1874-'75 Redwood; 1875-'78 Rochester; 1878-'80 East Prairie; 1880-'83 Big Stone; 1883-'86 Preston; 1886-'89 Kasson; 1889-'92 Wells; 1892-'96 Presiding Elder Mankato District; 1896-'1900 Waseca; 1900-1903 Sleepy Eye; 1903-1907 Fairmont; 1907-1911 Paynesville; 1912 Waseca, until he was compelled to give up his work. In all he was permitted to spend 41 years in the Gospel ministry, a splendid record for a minister of noble aspirations and humble devotion to the grandest work on earth.

He filled various important offices in his own conference and was four times a delegate to the General Conference, the highest legislative body in the church. He was recognized for clear, far and deep sighted vision; served on important committees where his keen insight and impartial convictions were especially appreciated and followed. His name stands on the honor roll of heroic men of the Evangelical Association. At the General Conference in Los Angeles, California, his name was read as one of the representative men who had died during that quadrennium.

Brother Sydow was faithful and conscientious in the discharge of all his Christian and official duties. He labored hard on every field to build up the spirituality of his membership. Most successful as a soul winner, he never left a charge without having had successful revivals and additions to his church. There will be many stars in his crown.

Brother Sydow was a man of wonderful gift in prayer. Many hours were spent in secret prayer and faithful study of God's Word. Often the Bishops asked him to lead in prayer at the opening of conference sessions. His wonderful power with God

was spoken of and marveled at. He took God at his word, trusting and pleading for victory.

As a speaker he was logical and forcible, his sermons a wonderful storehouse of God's truth. His messages went home, sinners were convicted and saints were glorified. Brother Sydow was especially gifted with almost a brilliant gift of preaching, never being known to preach a poor sermon. His study was a heavenly place. His family often found him on bended knee or quietly at talk with God. His sermons were Biblical.

As a pastor Brother Sydow was faithful in ministering to his members. He made his calls regularly and no member was slighted or neglected. The sick and dying found in him a comfort. The rich and poor, learned and ignorant, were treated alike. He loved all for their souls' sake.

As a neighbor and citizen Brother Sydow was highly respected. He was greatly interested in the welfare of his city and country. No one appreciated more the great privileges of citizenship than he did. He stood for right in civic life as well as church life and had the courage of his conviction. He was a heroic Christian.

He was well read and kept posted on all current events in state and church. Our church publications were all kept in his home library, and his children encouraged to read and intelligently discuss the topics of the day. Education was a strong factor for right living.

His methods of work in church and home were orderly and well planned. His private life was as clean and open as in public. Intemperance and its attending vices found no sympathy. He despised evil in all forms. System and neatness prevailed in all his business affairs. His personal conduct and appearance was modest and becoming to a servant of God.

In 1905, in company with one of his sons and some of his friends, he made a trip across the ocean to visit his relatives and friends in Germany. He greatly enjoyed his trip, and this was the only vacation which he allowed himself during his whole active ministry.

At the conference session, May, 1912, he stated he felt weak, but otherwise well, and agreed to accept another charge. He was appointed to Waseca, but his labors were soon to be ended, for he preached his last sermon Sunday, the 14th day of July, on that beautiful text, "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

Neither Brother Sydow nor his large congregation were aware that it would be the last sermon. With wonderful freedom and with an unusual manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the words spoken seemed to carry heaven down. Frequent "Amens" and "Hallelujahs" from Brother Sydow stirred the hearers. Even on that morning people spoke of the powerful sermon and the blessings they had received. For Brother Sydow the sun began to set while it was yet day, but the shining light on the path grew more and more as the perfect day neared.

It was very hard for him to give up his work and to leave his field of labor, but he was resigned to the will of God and patient in his suffering. Up to a few days before his end he could be around the family circle conducting the family altar services daily and taking an interest in his home and family.

On Monday afternoon before his death he called his family to his bedside and in calm faith told of his nearing end, he expressed his last wishes and then had each one present kneel in turn at his side, while he prayed and exhorted and bid them a farewell. Hymns of praise and triumphant shouts of victory through Jesus Christ, the Master whom he served so faithfully here upon earth, filled the passing moments of his life.

Wednesday morning, Oct. 2, 1912, he fell asleep, relieved from all earthly cares and sorrows, and he was permitted to enter the reward and rest and the home prepared for the children of God. He reached the age of 66 years, 1 month and 24 days.

The funeral services were held Tuesday forenoon, Oct. 8, at Fairmont. Rev. Schoenleben, Presiding Elder of Mankato District, had charge of the services at the home and church.

The large gathering of his brethren and associates in the ministry gathered about the casket at the home and beautifully sang "Wie wird uns sein," a favorite hymn of Brother Sydow.

Rev. G. Spaeth preached the funeral sermon at the church on Matt. 25: 21, and Rev. H. Plantikow, Presiding Elder of St. Paul District, spoke on Daniel 12: 3. Both brethren chose worthy and appropriate texts, and their messages went out to the large assembly as words of hope and comfort in the Christian life. Rev. Mr. Allen of the Methodist Church gave a splendid tribute to his neighbor pastor.

Throughout the entire impressive and solemn services the hopeful messages of eternal life brought comfort to the sorrowing family, consisting of wife, three daughters and three sons.

Rev. A. H. Utzinger, Presiding Elder of the Minneapolis District, officiated at the grave in Lake Side Cemetery.

Thus at rest with God, who shall wipe away all tears, where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain; where there shall be no more night, no need of candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord giveth them light and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Brother Sydow was married to Wilhelmina Pretzel, May 22, 1873, by Rev. L. von Wald, Presiding Elder. This union was blessed with eight children, two of whom predeceased him. He left his wife and six children to mourn his departure.

Rev. H. E. Linse

Henry Ernst Linse was born June 6, 1835, at Walschleben, Saxony, and came to this country with his parents in 1848, and settled in western Wisconsin. In 1853 he was converted under the labor of L. Buehler and J. J. Escher. In 1858 he was licensed to preach by the Wisconsin Conference. In 1859 he was sent to Minnesota to supply the large Upper Mississippi Mission for two years. Next he served Le Sueur Mission one year. Then he must have been stationed in Wisconsin for two more years. After that he served: St. Paul, '64-'66; Mankato '66-'68; Carver '68-'69; Hutchinson '69-'71; Dakota '71-'74; Blue Earth '74-'76; Presiding Elder St. Paul District '76-'80; East Prairie '80-'82; Maple Grove and Chaska '82-'83; Presiding Elder Mankato District '83-'84; Presiding Elder St. Paul District '84-'87; Presiding Elder Minneapolis District '87-'90; Presiding Elder St. Paul District '90-'92; without appointment '92-'93; St. Paul, Winifred '93-'94; Zion '94, serving it about three months. He served the conference 13 years as presiding elder, and held many important offices in it. He stood high in the councils of the church at one time. On account of financial reverses he lost his influence in the church, and his last years were filled with grief and sorrow. He left Minnesota about in 1894 and moved to Yakima, Wash., where he engaged in fruit raising, but could not retrieve his financial losses. He also lost the sight of one of his eyes while in Washington.

He was married twice and raised quite a large family of children, who keenly felt his misfortune. He died ripe in years on June 17, 1904. May his spirit have gone to the better world, to be with the redeemed forever!

OBITUARIES OF THE DEPARTED MINISTERS

Rev. J. H. Muehlhausen

John Henry Muehlhausen was born Nov. 17, 1871, at Rush River, Sibley County, Minn. His parents, Aug. and Augusta Muehlhausen, resided there on a farm. Here John grew up to young manhood. He attended the public school, laying the foundation for his future education. His religious knowledge was gained in the Sunday-school and catechetical class. Under the beneficent influence of his Christian parents and Brother L. S. Stapf he was led to a sound religious experience at the age of 17 years, and joined the Evangelical Association. Under the culture of earnest Evangelical ministers and a live Christian church his spiritual life developed, and soon he perceived the call to the ministry. In order to prepare himself for this holy calling he attended St. Paul College for some time, and later North-Western College and the Evangelical Seminary at Naperville, Ill., several years.

The Minnesota Conference licensed him to preach in 1892. He continued to pursue his studies another year, when he entered the active itinerancy and was stationed on Amboy Mission. In 1894 he was sent to Wells Circuit as assistant to M. Gagstetter. In this capacity he served two years. In 1895 he was ordained as deacon by Bishop Breyfogel, and in 1897 as elder by Bishop Bowman. In 1896 he was stationed to Brainerd Mission, which he served two years. From here he moved to Wadena, where he worked faithfully for four years. In 1902 he had to move the long distance from Wadena to Worthington, where he was active for his Master another four years. In 1906 he was stationed on New Ulm Mission, his last field. Here he worked hard, supervising the building of a new parsonage, performing much manual labor himself. He caught cold, and pulmonary complications set in, developing into tuberculosis. He continued on New Ulm Mission for three years, but much of the time he was not able to preach. He contracted typhoid fever, which weakened him still more. In the spring of 1909 he retired from the active work and moved to Winona, where he lived until death overtook him. He was in the active work 16 years. At Wadena he supervised the building of the Oak Valley church.

As minister he was well liked on the various fields which he served. His sermons were clear and systematic, and usually short. His pastoral calls were appreciated. He was friendly, often jocular, and interestingly conversant. He was a talented singer, and belonged to the conference octet for a number of

years. The financial affairs of his charges were well regulated. The church records he kept in perfect order.

On May 29, 1895, while he was assistant pastor at Wells, he was married to Sarah M. Toskey of Winona. This union was blessed with one daughter and one son. The latter died in infancy. His companion was a splendid helpmate to him in the ministry.

He lived about five years in his retired relation. Slowly the white plague undermined his strong constitution and sapped his vitality. Slowly but surely he felt the end coming. On June 14, 1909, his soul left the emaciated body to be free in the sunlight of God's love. His age at death was 42 years, 6 months and 27 days. He left, to mourn his demise, his sorrowing wife and one daughter, Sarah, aged parents, 1 brother, 6 sisters and other relatives.

The funeral services were held in our Winona church. M. Schoenleben, presiding elder, preached in the English language on 2 Cor. 5: 5, and A. H. Utzinger, his pastor, on 2 Tim. 4: 7, 8. The brethren Isker, Schaefer, Zick, Stettbacher and Iwig were present and took part in some way. His remains were interred in the beautiful Woodlawn cemetery of Winona. From there an Evangelical minister will arise on the resurrection day to eternal glory.

Rev. F. R. Plantikow

Frank Robert Plantikow, son of M. F. and Louise Plantikow, was born at Monroe, Wis., July 6, 1856. There his parents, who had come from Pomerania, were converted soundly to God, and joined the Evangelical Association. To obtain a home of their own, they emigrated to Minnesota, where land was cheap, and settled in the vicinity of the small village of Paynesville in 1860. Here young Frank grew up on the farm, helping his father with the work. His school privileges were limited, although he was a bright student. But what he missed in that line he gained in spiritual advantages. He had pious, consecrated parents. Then he was raised in a church society full of the Holy Ghost. The whole neighbohood consisted of Evangelical people. The prayer meetings were held regularly two or three times a week, summer and winter, and were spiritual feasts. The revival meetings were Pentecostal seasons, during which many souls were gloriously converted. At the age of ten, accordingly, Frank was convicted of his lost condition, and after a fervent penitential struggle was

happily saved. This sound religious experience was the foundation for his future life. In the spiritual atmosphere in which he lived his inner life developed fast, and he became more and more interested in the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. Soon he felt the call to the ministry, which caused him to consecrate himself still more to God in fervent prayer. To better prepare himself for the ministry, he attended North-Western College at Naperville, Ill., and took up the German course. In the fall of 1877 he was appointed by the presiding elder to take charge of Hutchinson Circuit, it having become vacant. In May, 1878, he was licensed to preach at the conference session at Blooming Grove, Bishop Dubs presiding. He was stationed on Lamberton Mission as assistant to J. G. Drehmel. After this he served the following charges: 1879-'82 Marshall; '82-'84 Mankato; '84-'87 West St. Paul; '87-'90 East Prairie. At the conference session at Racine, in 1880, he was ordained deacon by Bishop Bowman, and in 1882, at Zion, as elder by Bishop Escher. At the memorable conference session at Blue Earth, in 1890, he was elected presiding elder. He had then preached only 11½ years. He served Minneapolis District four years. Then he was again elected presiding elder, but resigned on account of family circumstances. He then served Blue Earth City two years. In 1896 he was again elected presiding elder and stationed on Mankato District, which he served four years. Once more he was elected to the same office and served St. Paul District four years. From 1904-'10 he had charge of our work in Minneapolis. From 1910-'14 he served Winona Mission. At this time the Board of Bishops appointed him as presiding elder of the Washington Mission Conference, in which capacity he served about eight months, when death relieved him from further work.

He has several successful building projects to his credit. While pastor at West St. Paul, he supervised the erection of the parsonage. At East Prairie he oversaw the building of a fine new church, which replaced the old one. In Blue Earth City he had charge of the erection of a very fine and well-arranged new church. But his hardest task he found in Minneapolis, where he was to amalgamate the Sixth Avenue and Highland Park congregations and build a new church centrally located. He succeeded in uniting the two churches, and supervised the building of a large, new, modern church on Emerson Avenue, North, and a new, modern parsonage also.

He was a born leader. He was considered the leader in our conference for a number of years. He had a special talent to conduct great meetings. Being enthusiastic himself, he inspired others to action. He sometimes achieved great success at his camp meetings, leading the people up to a climax toward the end of the meetings, when the power of God would descend like a cloudburst, and sinners press through into the kingdom of God by scores, and God's people shout for joy. Then his face would beam with happiness.

He was a good preacher. His sermons were systematic, so that his listeners could catch each point and remember it. His gestures were proper. He was rather slow in his delivery. His thoughts were good, and his theology was orthodox.

He held many offices in his conference, being a member of nearly all of the boards. He was elected delegate to the Board of Missions a number of times. Six General Conferences he attended as a delegate of our conference.

He was united in holy wedlock with Mary Eppard, July 13, 1881, in the Evangelical church at Racine. A. Strohmeier performed the wedding ceremony. To them were born one son and three daughters. He was a faithful husband and a tender father. He did all he could for his family.

He died in Spokane, Washington, on Dec. 17, 1914, of a stroke of apoplexy. His remains were transported to Paynesville, Minn., where the funeral services were held. Bishop W. Horn preached the funeral sermon to a large concourse of people on Christmas day in the large Paynesville church. J. M. Baitinger and R. M. Mueller assisted in the services. His remains were laid to rest in Salem's cemetery in the Plantikow family lot.

He left to mourn his sudden demise his widow, one son, three daughters, one brother, Herman, a minister of the Minnesota Conference, two sisters, besides other relatives and a host of friends. The Lord buries his workmen, but he carries on his work. The providence of God is miraculous; we cannot understand his ways, but we can trust him, for what he doeth is well done.

Rev. E. J. Hielscher

Ernst Julius Hielscher was born Aug. 11, 1826, at Jaenowitz, Prussia. He received a fairly good education in the schools of his native country. When he had grown up to manhood he was drafted in the army, where he advanced to the position of

"Unteroffizier," or sergeant, having considerable influence. His military training manifested itself in various ways during his whole life. In 1853 he came to this country and located at Altoona, Pa. Here he was married to Barbara Lohrig, March 15, 1855. This happy union was blessed with ten children, of whom four died in infancy. In 1857 he came to the Minnesota Territory and located on a farm in the heavy Le Seueur woods. Being a strong man, and very active, he went to work with a firm resolve to make an honest living for his family. It was an herculean task to clear the land of the timber, so that it could be tilled. The roads were almost impassable, and market facilities were about nil. Thus they suffered great privations and made many sacrifices. Schools and churches were entirely wanting at first. The memory of better conditions awakened in them a longing for educational and religious privileges. When, therefore, the Evangelical ministers came into the neighborhood of Le Sueur, father Hielscher and others gladly received them. At the time when John Schmitt was their pastor, father Hielscher and his wife made a glorious spiritual experience on Easter Sunday, 1863. It made of him a different man. How he rejoiced in his God ever after! He at once showed an interest in the salvation of others, and became active in building up the local church. Soon he became conscious of the divine call to the Christian ministry. After some hesitation he yielded and was licensed to preach, in 1868, at the first session of the Minnesota Conference, thus becoming a charter member. He served the following fields: '68-'70 New Ulm; '70-'73 Blue Earth; '73-'75 Rochester; '75-'78 St. Paul, Pine Street; '78-'81 Yankton, Dakota; '81-'83 Minneapolis; '83-'86 Odessa; '86-'89 Crow River; '89-'92 Preston; '92-'95 Rochester again; '95-'96 St. Cloud; '96-'98 Faribault. On account of advanced age he now located and spent the remaining years of his life in the beautiful city of Faribault.

Father Hielscher was a unique character. If his biography had been written and published it would have been interesting reading matter. It is too bad that his interesting diaries have been destroyed. He was a great, grand man. During the first years of his ministry he was very sincere, and earnest, and zealous. Backed by a strong body and an active intellect, he put much force into his sermons. He omitted everything that might induce laughter or lighter thoughts. His audiences were often held spellbound for an hour or longer as he poured forth the overflow of his sanctified heart. The effects of his sermons were often marvelous. His

labor resulted in many genuine conversions. On his first field, New Ulm, he had 77 conversions in two years, on Blue Earth 134, St. Paul 73, Yankton 49, Odessa 104, Crow River 41, Rochester (two terms) 43, and at other places less. In all he reported 560 souls saved during his pastorates.

In his early years he was very aggressive, going into new neighborhoods, inviting the people to come to his services. Thus he got into clashes with German Lutheran pastors. It was interesting to hear him tell his experiences. He often entertained the families where he stayed over night by telling them of his meetings, of wonderful conversions, and his incidents with Lutheran pastors. While on Rochester Mission the first time he induced a number of Lutheran families to attend his services. That enraged their pastor. A controversy ensued, and at last a public debate, with several ministers on each side. The Evangelicals won out, and the result was that quite a number of families came over to our church and were converted. Toward the end of his active ministry he became less rigid, and sometimes related amusing incidents in his sermons.

He was not subject to the man-serving spirit, fearlessly attacking sin in all of its forms. At revival meetings and camp meetings he courageously demanded good behavior of all present. Even the rowdies respected his orders. Although an adult when he came to America, and not having had any schooling in the English language, yet he learned it so well that he ventured to preach in it. The American people were so fond of hearing him that they gladly excused his German accent and grammatical mistakes, for they appreciated his good intentions.

While living at Rochester he made a trip to the old fatherland. When he came back he gave interesting and amusing lectures at various places on his observations and experiences abroad.

Financially he was so well fixed that he needed no support from the conference. The church he supported liberally with his means and bequeathed it a laudable sum in his last will and testament.

His life was not all sunshine. Caused by an unfortunate accident, his faithful wife and the mother of his children died Sept. 3, 1895. His daughter, Mary, then kept house for him for several years, but he felt lonely and sought and found another companion in the person of Mrs. Louise Eigenbrodt, to whom he was married June 15, 1897. At the age of 86 he underwent a critical operation, which was but partly successful.

While residing at Faribault in a local relation he was a geat help to the pastors there. He would preach for the Faribault people almost every alternate Sunday, and took a deep interest in the Sunday-school and Young People's Alliance.

His demise came peacefully Dec. 19, 1914, at the ripe age of 88 years, 4 months and 8 days. The funeral services were held in our church in Faribault. Bishop W. Horn preached on Luke 2: 29, 30; M. Schoenleben, the presiding elder, gave a very striking description of the life and work of the deceased in the English language. C. Nauman and P. A. Lang assisted. The pall-bearers were: B. Simon, Hensel, Passer, Britzius, Isker and Drehmel. His mortal remains rest in the beautiful cemetery at Faribault. His soul shouts the praises of his Saviour in heaven. Gone, but not forgotten! He left to mourn his departure his wife, 3 sons and 3 daughters. His son George is a respected and successful minister of our conference.

Rev. H. Hensel

Henry August Hensel was born Dec. 11, 1843, at Schoenwitz, Prussia. In 1867 he came to America, to the State of Wisconsin. Being a single man, having no particular home, he worked for the farmers as opportunity offered. He was converted in Wisconsin under the labors of Rev. Jacob Kaercher and G. Fritsche, and united with the Evangelical Association. Soon after his religious experience he came to Crow River (near Mayer), Minn. Here he made his home for some time with the good F. Schoeppler family. He diligently served God and made progress in Christian life. Soon he realized the call of God to do special work in the vineyard of the Lord. At the fourth session of the Minnesota Conference, held at St. Paul, in 1871, he was licensed to preach and stationed on the extensive Sauk Center Mission. Here he made his home, part of the time at least, with the Kurrell family at Ashley Creek. After faithfully and successfully serving this field two years, in which the Lord gave him 17 conversions, he was ordained as deacon in the Salem's church near Paynesville by Bishop Escher. Here he was stationed to St. Cloud. In this year, 1873, he was married to Sophia Wolter, of Meriden, and established a home of his own. On this mission his efforts were blessed with 34 conversions in two years. He had especially good success at the Block appointment. At the conference session at East Prairie, in 1875, together with C. W. Sydow, he was or-

dained as elder. After this he served the following fields: Maple Grove, 1875-'76; Yankton, '76-'78; Le Sueur, '78-'80; Fairmont, '80-'83; Blue Earth, '83-'85; New Ulm, '85-'88; Renville, '88-'91; Hutchinson, '91-'94; Appleton, '94-'96; Elizabeth, '96-'98; Rochester, '98 to 1902; Wabasso, '02-'06; Rice Lake, '06-'10; Farmington, '10-'12; Le Sueur, '12-'14; Meriden, '14-'17. He served in the itinerancy for forty-six years without interruption. While at Yankton, Dakota, he supervised the erection of a new church, for which he solicited funds over a large part of the conference district, driving hundreds of miles with his ponies. In two years on Blue Earth Circuit he had 41 conversions. At Rice Lake he supervised the enlarging and remodeling of the church. Here he had a great revival one winter, resulting in 25 conversions.

During the last years of his life he was hard of hearing, which hindered him somewhat in his work. In 1914 he moved to Waseca, intending to locate, but, on account of the shortage of ministers, consented to supply Meriden Mission, which he continued to do until a few weeks before his death.

He had a strong, rugged constitution. Often he would help the farmers with their work in the harvest field or otherwise, and keep up his end of the work with the best of them. In his early manhood he was a blacksmith, which developed strong and firm muscles in his arms.

He had only a common school education in the German language, yet he was a good student and acquired considerable knowledge. Well versed in the Holy Scriptures, he sustained the assertions in his sermons with Bible quotations. He preached the cardinal doctrines of salvation with clearness and power, and insisted on a holy life. He was an especial friend of the children and young people. He was probably more diligent and successful in catechetical instruction than any other minister in the conference. Although he was not brilliant, yet he was a steady, hard, faithful worker, and achieved much success in saving souls.

In July, 1917, he was afflicted with paralysis of the bowels, which baffled all medical skill and caused his death. During this time he was tenderly cared for by his family. He was resigned to the will of God and expressed several beautiful sentiments, such as: "I am going home. In my Father's house are many mansions." "God forgave all my imperfections, and I am saved by grace alone. I have no merits of my own." He passed away peacefully in the faith of his blessed Master, Aug. 4, 1917, at the age of 73 years, 7 months and 24 days.

He left to mourn his departure, his beloved wife, 1 son, 4 daughters and 7 grandchildren. He had been a tender and faithful husband to his wife, and tried to raise his children in the admonition and nurture of the Lord. He provided for them as well as he could.

The funeral services were held in our church at Waseca on Tuesday, Aug. 7th. M. Schoenleben, presiding elder of St. Paul District, preached the funeral sermon on Phil. 1: 21, a text chosen by the deceased himself. H. A. Seder, our pastor at Waseca, spoke on 2 Tim. 4: 7. Other ministers who had been his colaborers were present and took part in the services. His remains were laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Waseca. His works do follow him. He will meet many in heaven who will call him their spiritual father.

Rev. L. Reep

Leonard Reep was born Aug. 22, 1852, in Butler County, Pa. He was the son of an Evangelical minister, Rev. Solomon Reep. When Leonard was still a child his father came west and settled down at North Washington, Chicasaw County, Iowa. Here he was converted in early youth. Soon after his acceptance with God, he felt the call to the Christian ministry, and early, in his nineteenth year, he responded and began to preach under the supervision of his father.

He did not have the privilege of a college education, but he was firmly convinced of his divine call, and, therefore, followed his sacred calling with great zeal. Although he did not have the means to attend college, yet he was determined to get an education, and, therefore, procured books which he carefully studied, acquiring a vast store of useful theological knowledge. He continued to study all his life. He was equally proficient in both the English and the German language. He kept pace with the times and was much interested in the progress of events in religious and social realms.

He served 47 years as minister of the Evangelical Association, led many souls to Christ, and built up the churches in the most holy faith. Among his converts are numbered several preachers of our church. Although dead, yet he liveth, and his works do follow him. Brother Reep did much pioneer work in the Iowa Conference. In stormy weather, and over almost impassable roads,

he faithfully met his appointments and ministered unto saint and sinner.

He served in the Iowa Conference from 1871 to 1906, when he transferred to the Minnesota Conference. Here he served Danube three years, and then located three years. In 1912 he accepted Sleepy Eye charge, serving it four years. Thereafter he served Mayer Mission one year. He then retired and made his home in Hutchinson.

For years he had not been real well, and after he retired his strength seemed to ebb away, and a year later, on May 13, 1918, he was called to his eternal reward, to behold him whom he so convincingly preached to the people. He died at the age of 65 years, 8 months and 7 days. He left to mourn his departure his devoted wife, who was his faithful companion during nearly his entire ministerial career, and shared with him its privations and sacrifices as well as its blessings and privileges. He also left 4 sons, 1 daughter, 4 brothers, 2 sisters and many other relatives and friends, who will miss him here on earth, but expect to meet him again in heaven.

H. Plantikow, presiding elder, preached the funeral sermon in our church at Hutchinson. R. M. Mueller, his pastor, and C. A. Tesch assisted in the services. His mortal remains were interred in the cemetery at Buffalo Lake, where most of his family reside.

Rev. Aug. Huelster

He was born Feb. 10, 1837, at Fredeburg, Westphalia, Germany. His parents were strict Catholics. In May, 1848, at the age of 11, he came to America. The Huelster family remained in New York City several years and then moved to Wisconsin in 1850. They settled on a farm at Lomira, which has become famous as an Evangelical center. Here they came under the influence of our church, and after some time all were happily converted to God. August was converted at a "great meeting" at Richland. At the age of 16 he was elected class leader. Soon he felt the divine call to the ministry, but he hesitated to obey, for he considered himself too unworthy for such a sacred office. At the age of 17 he received a recommendation to preach from his class, and received a license from the Illinois Conference in June, 1855. He was sent as assistant to J. W. Sindlinger to Brooksville Circuit, where he remained one year. The next year he served Osh-

kosh Mission in Wisconsin. He became a charter member of the Wisconsin Conference. In May, 1857, he was sent to Minnesota as one of the first ministers of our church. Here he did hard pioneer work, enduring many privations, sometimes endangering his life while fording raging streams. He carried the blessed Gospel to many new German settlements which had never been visited before by a minister. He traversed the whole region from St. Paul to New Ulm, and north-west along the Crow River. After two years of hard labor in Minnesota he was stationed to Madison, Wisconsin, where he remained one year. In 1860 he was sent to Winona Mission, but remained only one year. In 1861 he returned to Wisconsin and labored there until 1880, when he returned to Minnesota, where he served the following fields: '80-'83 St. Paul, Pine Street; '83-'87 Presiding Elder of Fargo District, Dakota Conference; '87-'90 Faribault; '90-93 St. Charles; '93-'97 Kasson; '97-'01 Olivia; '01-'04 Hutchinson; '04-'08 Kasson. After having preached continuously for 53 consecutive years he retired from the active ranks in May, 1908. For a while he lived in Kasson, and then moved to Santa Ana, Calif., where he and his wife have since gone to their eternal reward. He passed away in 1915.

He was permitted to celebrate the golden jubilee of his ministry in 1905, while serving Kasson Circuit. It was in connection with the annual Young People's Alliance convention. His lifelong friend and colleague, G. Fritsche, of the Wisconsin Conference, attended and gave an address. Other brethren also made fitting remarks. (He holds the record in our conference for length of continuous service.) H. Bunse, a veteran of our conference, spoke about the beginning of the work. J. G. Simon gave reminiscences. W. Huelster, a brother, conveyed congratulations. Bishop W. Horn also contributed an inspiring address. Brother Huelster then responded, giving all the honor to God for all that he was enabled to do during all these many years.

Brother Huelster was a good minister. His sermons were Biblical, systematic and instructive, delivered in a pleasing manner. He led many souls to Christ. His intercourse with the people was agreeable. He wrote a book in the German language, entitled "Gnadenwunder," which found a wide circulation in Minnesota and Wisconsin, in which he gives his experiences and dwells on various other topics.

Rev. J. Rasskopf

Joseph Rasskopf was born at Preston, Canada, May 10, 1835, and departed this life at Lawrence, Kansas, Sept. 27, 1918, at the age of 83 years, 4 months and 17 days. He was licensed to preach by the Wisconsin Conference about 1859. At the first session of the Iowa Conference, in 1861, he was ordained as deacon, and two years later as elder. He was stationed on Preston Mission in 1859, with G. von Eschen as his pastor in charge. From 1860-'63 he preached in Kansas. In 1863 he took charge of Faribault County Mission, Minn., and served it two years. He lived in Blue Earth. Owning the 160 acres of land, on which the Emanuel's church was built, he donated an acre or more, on which to erect the church. In 1865 he took his credentials and moved to Kansas, where he sustained a local relation for many years.

He married a Kansas girl in 1861, which probably influenced his decision to locate in that state. He left his aged companion, 2 sons and 1 daughter to mourn his departure.

He saw the beginning of our work in Minnesota, and had a part in it. He was one of the last few links connecting us with the past. He was converted under J. J. Escher, married by R. Dubs, and ordained by Bishop Long.

Rev. F. Emde

Frederick Emde was born in Germany in 1831. There he received a commmon school education. After he came to America he was converted to God and joined the Evangelical Association. God called him to preach the Gospel, and he obeyed, being licensed to preach by the Iowa Conference in 1861. He belongs to the early ministers of this state. His first appointment was St. Paul and Crow River, as assistant to Oswald Ragatz. Long distances had to be traveled on these missions. After that he served the following fields: In the Iowa Conference: '62-'63 Paynesville; '63-'64 Menominee, Wis.; '64-'65 Le Sueur; '65-'66 Mankato; '66-'68 Frontenac. In the Minnesota Conference: '68-'69 Winona; '69-'71 Paynesville; '71-'74 Hutchinson; '74-'76 Crow River; '76-'77 Chaska; '77-'79 Beaver Falls; '79-'82 Dakota County; '82-'85 New Ulm; '85-'88 St. Peter; '88-'89 without an appointment. He now moved to Paynesville, and from there served South Haven two years. In 1891 he took a supernumerary relation, after having preached 29 years. After living in Paynesville several years, he

moved to Bowbells, North Dakota, where he worked a farm, but, on account of drouths and poor crops, left and went to Northwest Canada. His last years were spent in the State of Washington, from where he went to his eternal reward.

Brother Emde was a striking personality, tall, slender, Roman nose, auburn hair and a beard below his chin. People remember him if they cannot remember any other minister. I have enquired of a number of old members about the early preachers, and they would all mention Emde when they could not think of any other. He shared the hard work and privations of the early pioneers. While living at Paynesville, in 1862, in a new log parsonage, he and his family fled on account of the Indians, and when they returned found their home and all its contents in ashes. After the Indian massacre he and his wife took one or two children whose parents had been murdered, into their home for a number of years.

His sermons were not ornated with flowery language, but plain, matter-of-fact discourses, well spiked with Scripture quotations. His labors were crowned with many conversions during his earlier years. He has been gathered with the fathers and is reaping the reward of his labors. He left to mourn his departure, his wife, two sons and one daughter.

Rev. Leonhard von Wald

Leonhard von Wald was born in 1829, in Parpau, Switzerland. In 1847 he came with his parents to America, and settled down in Sauk County, Wis. Here the family came in touch with the Evangelical Association. His sister was the first member of the family to be converted, but soon after his parents also made this blessed experience. At first young Leonhard resisted, but during a siege of severe sickness he became convicted of his lost condition, and after a long and severe penitential struggle was gloriously saved on Easter Sunday, 1851. Of this experience he himself wrote: "O happy day! I will not forget thee in all eternity! I found the precious pearl, for which I sought so long, and Jesus, the King of glory, entered my heart and gave me peace and joy and salvation. It now was my *joy* to serve God, who loved me. Praised be his name forever! Amen."

Rev. H. Esch was his pastor at the time and received him into the church. In 1852 he was elected as exhorter, and in 1853,

at the session of the Illinois Conference at Racine, was licensed as preacher on probation. He was stationed with J. G. Esslinger as his preacher in charge on Oshkosh Mission. His second year he served under the supervision of H. Esch on the extensive Fox River Mission. In 1855 he was ordained as deacon and sent to Milwaukee Mission. In 1856 to 1857 he served La Crosse Mission with G. von Eschen as his assistant. From 1857 to '59 he served Winona Mission and Buffalo County Mission in Wisconsin, with G. von Eschen as assistant. The next two years he was pastor on Monroe Circuit, Wis. In 1861 he was again stationed on Buffalo County Mission, Wis. After this he served St. Paul 1862-'64; Carver 1864-'65; Paynesville 1865-'66; Cannon River '66-'68; Preston '68-'70; Rochester '70-'71. In 1871, at the conference session in St. Paul, he was elected Presiding Elder and stationed on St. Paul District, which he served successfully for four years. In 1875 he was returned to the pastorate and served Oak Ridge 1875-'78; Blue Earth '78-'81; Faribault '81-'82; Milbank beginning with 1882. When the Dakota Conference was organized in 1884 he became a charter member of it. He preached a few years yet, and then retired at Milbank, Dakota.

Brother von Wald was a lean, tall man, resembling Abraham Lincoln somewhat in appearance. He was a powerful preacher, very earnest and sincere. He could carry the right kind of an audience away with him. He led many souls to Christ on all the fields he served. He insisted on thorough conversions and a holy living. He would often get the church members to the altar to reconsecrate themselves to God. He himself was a pious man.

He was married to Catharine Engel, of Pleasant Grove, in 1858. To them were born five children, of whom only one, a son, grew up. After some years his wife became afflicted with mental disorders, and, after suffering some time, was relieved by death. In 1872 he married Catharine Kachel. This union was blessed with eight children. He was a faithful husband and a tender father, and cared for his family as well as he could.

Toward the end of November, 1900, at a funeral service, he caught a bad cold, which induced his last sickness, consisting of a complication of different ailments. He died Dec. 21, 1900. One of his last expressions was: "My prospects are bright, and I am entirely satisfied." Rev. G. J. Keller conducted the funeral services, which were private on account of a contagious disease which prevailed among his children in their home. He was laid to rest

in the Milbank cemetery. He found many souls in heaven whom he led to the Lamb of God.

He left to mourn his death his wife, 6 children, 3 brothers and 1 sister, Mrs. C. A. Schnake.

Rev. F. Moede

Christian Frederick Moede was born May 28, 1843, at Schoenwerder, Pomerania. While yet a young man his parents came with their family to America, settling at Monroe, Wis. In 1863 they came to Minnesota and located on a farm north of Paynesvile, in our Salem's congregation. At the age of 19 he was converted and joined the Evangelical Association. He at once took a deep interest in the welfare of the kingdom of God. He was elected as the first class leader and first Sunday-school superintendent of the Salem's church. While living here he worked a farm. During these years he felt the call to the ministry. He had but a common school education, but was filled with the love of God and the Holy Ghost. Finally he yielded to the sacred call and was licensed to preach in 1873 at the session of the Minnesota Conference at Salem, his home church. L. Passer and H. Isker entered the ministry at the same time, both surviving him. His first field was Redwood. He related at a conference session, a few years ago, how he began his work on this charge with fear and trembling. He remained here one year. After that he served Jackson '74-'77; New Ulm '77-'79; Chaska '79-'80; St. Charles '80-'82; Kasson '82-'84; without appointment one year; Alexandria '86-87; then without appointment another year; Alexandria '88-'89; Rochester '89-'91; Hamilton '91-'92; Waseca '92-'94; Le Sueur Center '94-'95; Dakota '95-'96; without appointment '96-1900; Buffalo Lake 1900-'04; South Haven '04-'08; another year without work; Le Sueur '09-'11. Now he retired and moved to Paynesville, where he worked a little farm, and assisted the preacher in charge as much as he could. He preached regularly for the Paynesville congregation every other Sunday forenoon for several years. In all he served regular charges 30 years.

Although he was not an eloquent speaker, yet he was a good theologian, and preached strong, doctrinal sermons. He led many souls to an experimental knowledge of Christ, and will have "stars in his crown." His character was without blemish; his spiritual life deep.

He was married to Regina Spriestersbach in 1868. This union was blessed with 10 children. After 20 years of happy marriage she was taken from him by death. This was a hard stroke for him and his large family, but the Lord helped them on. In 1890 he was united in matrimony with Barbara Sigrist, with whom he had three children. This wife also preceded him in death in 1915.

Brother M. died Feb. 24, 1920, at the age of 76 years, 8 months and 26 days. He had been ailing for some time. He left to mourn his demise 6 sons, 6 daughters and 17 grandchildren.

The funeral services were held at Paynesville. H. Plantikow, Presiding Elder, preached in the German, and P. A. Lang in the English language. H. Isker and R. R. Werner also participated in the services. Thus another link between the distant past and the present is broken. We miss the fathers of our conference, but rejoice over their triumphant entrance into the realms of light above.

Rev. H. Bunse

Herman Bunse was born Jan. 3, 1841, in Waldeck, Germany. When he was 15 years of age his parents emigrated to America and settled in Dakota County, Minn., on a farm. The country was new then, and they had to undergo the privations and hardships of the first settlers. The family soon came under the influence of the first Evangelical missionary which visited that section, Aug. Huelster. At a camp meeting at East Prairie, held in Bosshardt's grove, in the summer of 1859, young Bunse was happily converted to God and joined the Evangelical Association. Soon after he felt the call to the ministry, which was very clear and insistent. His father objected to his entering the ministry, saying he needed him on the farm, but he realized that he must obey God rather than man.

In 1861 the East Prairie quarterly conference licensed him as local preacher. In May, 1862, the Iowa Conference licensed him as preacher on probation. Two years later he was ordained as deacon and in 1866 as elder. His first field was Menominee Mission in Wisconsin, where he was assistant to H. E. Linse. The next year he had charge of Hutchinson Mission. Here he preached mostly in private houses, quite often in the homes of Mr. Pagel, Mr. Ulrich and Mr. Luedke near Winstead. In 1864 he was sent down to Council Bluffs Mission, consisting of seven

appointments, requiring a trip of 450 miles to make the round. These were the Civil War years, when the cost of living was high and the salary small, amounting to about $100.00 to $150.00 per year. In 1866 he was stationed on Des Moines Mission, which consisted of several appointments, and remained one year. He was returned to Council Bluffs in 1867, and the next year was sent to Lansing Mission. In all he served five years in Iowa, including part of Nebraska. He attended the first session of the Minnesota Conference, near his old home, in 1868, and wanted to join it, but was persuaded by Bishop Escher to remain in Iowa another year, on account of a shortage of men. In 1879 he joined the Minnesota Conference and was stationed on Oak Ridge Circuit, where he had many conversions. During his second year he built the brick parsonage in St. Charles. From 1871-'74 he served Winona. Here he had to endure afflictions, both of his sons being called away by death. Skillfully he steered the church through the breakers on the stormy sea. Next he had charge of St. Paul Station and of the mission for one year. Here he supervised the erection of the Salem's church. From here he went to East Prairie in 1875 and remained three years, having good success. In 1878 he returned to St. Paul, where he found much to do. At Hamilton, in 1880, he was elected presiding elder and stationed on St. Paul District. Four years later he was re-elected and placed on Mankato District. These were strenuous years, in which he had to be away from home much of the time, and held many camp meetings. In 1888 he returned to the pastorate and served Minneapolis, Sixth Avenue, three years; St. Cloud one year; Paynesville three years, and Crow River three years. In Paynesville he supervised the building of the church. In 1898 he was again elected presiding elder and stationed on Minneapolis District, which he served four years. After that he had charge of Winona Mission for three years and Chaska one year. In 1906, after having preached for 44 consecutive years, he retired and lived in Farmington five years. Then he moved to Mayer, there to spend his remaining years.

He was married to Henrietta Goettel in May, 1866. This union was blessed with 2 sons and 3 daughters. Sister Bunse was a good helpmate to him during the many years of their married life. She preceded him in death Nov. 13, 1918.

At the conference session at Minneapolis, in 1912, Brother Bunse celebrated his fiftieth anniversary in the ministry. A jubilee service was held on Thursday evening, at which Brother Bunse

and C. W. Sydow spoke, and J. Graeben read an original poem, all suitable to the occasion.

Brother Bunse was a good minister. He was careful and tactful and settled many difficulties. On the other hand, he was firm and insisted on living up to the Word of God and our Discipline. During his long ministerial career he led many souls to God and saw the conference grow from its infancy to large proportions.

Brother B. held many offices in the conference, being elected as delegate to three sessions of the General Conference; was conference trustee for many years, member of the Board of Examiners, officer of the Insurance Society, conference treasurer, and held various other positions of trust. He also served as conference secretary twice.

After a protracted weakness, caused by rheumatism and old age, Brother B. died on March 16, 1920, at the age of 79 years, 2 months and 13 days. At the time of his death he was the oldest minister in point of years in the ministry, having held that sacred office for about 59 years. He was buried at Mayer. J. Kienholz, one of his co-laborers for a long series of years, preached the funeral sermon, and J. Graeben and F. J. Knuth assisted. Thus another veteran of the cross was mustered out.

Rev. A. C. Schmidt

August C. Schmidt was born Dec. 28, 1848, in Wisconsin, at Lomira. Later his parents came to Quincy, Minn., and settled on a farm, becoming some of the first members of our church at that place. He received very little school training, acquiring most of his education by the reading of books after he entered the ministry. At the age of 14 he was soundly converted and joined the church. From that time on he became active in the Sunday-school and the prayer meetings. In the near future he felt the divine call to the ministry, but hesitated to obey, because he realized his lack of a proper education, and believed that his parents, being poor, needed his help on the farm. After much praying he yielded, and in 1870 was licensed to preach by the Minnesota Conference. His first field was New Ulm Mission, J. G. Drehmel being his preacher in charge. Brother Schmidt mostly served the outlying appointments. During his second year he had charge of Redwood Mission, which was formed of appointments taken from New Ulm Mission. After that he served: Red-

wood, '72-'73; Le Sueur, '73-'75; St. Cloud, '75-'78; Elizabeth, '78-'80; Red River, '80-'81; Pembina, '81-83; Crow River, '83-'86; St. Cloud, '86-'89; Paynesville, '89-'92. In 1892 he retired from active service on acccount of throat trouble. He was accustomed to preach very loud, so that, at times, his voice gave out. For a number of years he kept a general store in Paynesville. Then he disposed of his business and moved to Dakota on a farm. About in 1910 he moved again, this time to Yakima, Washington. Here he entered the active ranks again and served the following fields: Yakima Valley, 2 years; Nob Hill, 2 years; Cowiche, 1 year, and again Yakima Valley, 1 year. In all he preached 28 years.

Brother S. was a sincere man, a hard worker, punctual in the fulfillment of his duties, and saw much service on the frontier missions. Many souls were convicted during his preaching and converted to God.

He married a Miss Becker, with whom he raised a large family.

He died in 1920, at the age of 71 years and some months, leaving his aged companion and 12 children to mourn his departure.

H. J. Bittner preached the funeral sermon, assisted by J. J. Schaefer and J. R. Ehret. C. Oertli, B. Simon, H. C. Weber, D. Groenig, J. R. Ehret and J. J. Schaefer acted as pall-bearers. His earthly remains await the resurrection morn, while his spirit took its flight to higher realms of light and glory.

Rev. H. A. Seder

Henry August Seder was born near Dodge, Wisconsin, Jan. 5, 1858, the son of an Evangelical minister. Since the early ministers had to move every two years, at least, young Henry's home was changed several times during his early childhood. At the early age of six his father was cruelly murdered by the savage Sioux Indians near our present Middle Creek church. The mother, now deprived of the provider of the family, lived at various places for a few years, when she was married to a Mr. Miller, near Arcadia, Wis. Here Henry grew up to manhood. His early education he received in the district school. He was converted at the age of thirteen. As a youth he felt the divine call to the ministry, and, to prepare himself better for this sacred profession, he attended the Theological Seminary at Galesville, Wis.

Brother Seder was licensed as minister on probation by the Minnesota Conference in 1884, in session at St. Paul. In 1885 he was received into the itinerancy; was ordained as deacon in 1886, and as elder in 1888. His first field was the extensive St. Cloud Mission, on which he served three years, two as assistant to G. J. Schmidt. During this time, on April 14, 1886, he was seriously injured by the cyclone which passed through the township of Graham, near St. Cloud. For a time he hovered between life and death, but, owing to the grace of God and the good care he received, he recovered, yet he bore reminders of that catastrophe on his body as long as he lived. In 1887 St. Cloud Mission was divided by forming a Royalton Mission of the northern appointments, and Brother S. was given the latter field, thus serving those people four years. After that he served the following charges: Elizabeth, '88-91; Appleton, '91-'94; Maple Grove, '94-'98; Marshall, '98-1900; Alexandria, '00-'04; Brainerd, '04-'08; Kasson, '08-'13; Preston, '13-'17; Waseca, '17-'20. On account of poor health he was compelled to retire at the conference session held at Olivia in 1920. He then moved into a country home near Waseca, in the hope of regaining his health, but the Lord willed otherwise and called him home, from labor to reward, on Jan. 19, 1911, at the age of 63 years and 14 days.

Brother Seder was married to Augusta Wuenscher on May 5, 1887. To this happy union were born 3 sons and 3 daughters, who, with the sorrowing widow, survive him. He was a faithful husband and a kind father, who was very much interested in the welfare of his family. He gave his children a good education and set them a safe example. May they follow in his footsteps!

The deceased was a faithful minister of the Gospel, preaching the cardinal doctrines of salvation. Through his pastoral visits he did much good, winning the people with his pleasant conversation and earnest prayers. He led many souls to a vital experience of salvation. On some fields he had remarkable success, as, for example, at Maple Grove, where he had 44 conversions in one year, and Kasson 18 in one year. He was well liked on the fields he served. He was a good singer, which gift he used to the glory of God. Was a member of the conference choir over 25 years.

His ailment was heart trouble and hardening of the arteries. The funeral services were held at Waseca. C. Nauman, the pastor of Waseca Circuit, preached the sermon, and C. F. Kachel, Presid-

ing Elder of St. Paul District, assisted. C. C. Engelbart and A. R. Zick also took part in the services. Thus another co-laborer was laid to rest, but the work of the Lord goes on.

Rev. H. Isker

Herman Isker was born Aug. 6, 1848, in East Friesen, and came to America when a young man in 1868, and located at Alma, Wis., where he entered the employ of a merchant. The next year, during a great revival, at which 30 souls were saved, he was convicted of his sins and gloriously converted. Peter Speich was his spiritual father. Now he began to take an interest in religious matters and soon perceived the call to the ministry, but hesitated to accept on account of the great responsibility of the office. During a stay with his uncle, E. H. Baumann, on Paynesville Circuit, the Zion class gave him a recommendation, and at the following conference session, in 1873, he was licensed to preach. He, however, did not take work at that time, but went back to Wisconsin to help his parents on the farm, and sustained a local relation in the ministry. Before the conference session of 1881 he served the Winona Mission for a few months as supply and then entered the active ranks. He served the following charges: Lamberton, his first field, '81-'83; Le Sueur, '83-'85; Hutchinson, '85-'88; Paynesville, '88-'89; Zion, '89-'91; Minneapolis, '91-'94; Faribault, '94-'96; Mankato, '96-1900; Waseca, 1900-'04; Courtland, '04-'05; Hutchinson, '05-'10; East Prairie, '10-'13; Kenyon, '13-'15; Maple Grove, '15-'19.

The charges Paynesville and Zion were practically the same field and necessitated no move; the same was true of East Prairie and Kenyon. In the spring of 1919 he asked for a local relation on account of the poor health of his wife, which was granted, yet he was given charge of the Bismarck appointment.

On Oct. 26, 1874, he was joined in matrimony with Anna Herold. This union was blessed with 12 children, of whom four have gone on before. He was a good husband and a considerate father. Together they raised a fine family of children. Several of his sons entered the United States Army during the recent great World War.

He was successful and well liked on all of his fields. He was very pleasant and entertaining in his conversation. His sermons were Scriptural and interesting. Some of his most successful

revivals he had at the Kobler church on Le Sueur Mission, on Lamberton charge, and at Salem and Zion. He led many souls to Christ.

He was quite a builder of churches. At Waseca he supervised the building of a nice, large, new church. At Acoma he looked after the erection of a new one in place of the one which was burned; in Hutchinson he had the old church much enlarged and improved; at Kenyon he had a new one built; at Morristown one was bought while he was pastor; in New Ulm he secured the lot for a church.

He was noted as a singer, being gifted with a fine tenor voice. Wherever he was pastor, if there was any material at hand, he organized a singing class and improved the singing in the congregation. In the conference choir he was the leading tenor singer for nearly thirty years.

His end came unexpectedly. On Friday, August 25th, 1922, he borrowed a team and buggy to visit his parishioners at Iosca. The team was frightened by a passing tractor, and ran away, upsetting the buggy. He was injured internally and was taken to a hospital in Waseca, where he passed away about two hours after the accident. He reached the age of 74 years and 19 days.

The funeral services were conducted in our church at Waseca on Monday afternoon. Rev. E. F. Brand, his presiding elder, preached the sermon, and C. F. Kachel followed with remarks. His remains were laid at rest in the family lot in the beautiful cemetery at Faribault, Minn. He is survived by an invalid wife, 3 sons and 5 daughters. In his death the Minnesota Conference lost a useful and faithful minister.

PART III

Historic Sketches of Local Fields and Churches of the Minnesota Conference

REMARKS

This part contains brief historic sketches of the various fields and local churches. They are arranged in alphabetical order, excepting that some charges are grouped in with others. It was extremely difficult to get information as to the origin of some congregations. The author has endeavored to treat each field fairly and impartially. If mistakes are discovered, cover them with the mantle of charity, and make as much use of the historic data furnished as you can for the upbuilding of Christ's Kingdom.

Appleton

This name has been given to this field, although we never had much of a work in Appleton. Some preaching was done in this city some years ago, but a class could never be organized. The mission has principally consisted of the Fairfield and Madison appointments. Other appointments belonging to this charge in earlier years were a congregation near Montevideo and two near Morris. Clara City was also served from here a few years.

The first Evangelical minister to come to these points was F. G. Sahr, from Bigstone, in 1874. From then until 1885 these places were supplied by ministers from Bigstone and Odessa Circuits. In 1885 an Appleton Mission was formed of the appointments Fairfield, Montevideo and Morris. Madison was later added to it. From 1895 to 1904 Madison belonged to Bellingham, and 1917-'19 it constituted a mission in itself.

Fairfield

Our work here started in 1874, when Henry Dehne settled in this region. The Mueller (1881) and Rosenkranz families also were of the early settlers. The first members of our church were Henry and Wilhelmine Dehne, Maria Rosenkranz and Elizabeth Mueller. Brother Dehne was the first class leader. The congregation bought the small Yellowbank church and moved it to Fairfield, and used it for its religious services until 1895, when a new one was erected under the directions of H. Hensel. The society

was incorporated Feb. 16, 1884. The first trustees were H. Dehne, G. Mueller and H. Berlinke. In the course of time we find the names Lenz, Groenig, Janke, Koehler, Lang, Reinmuth, Opp, Ritzke, Rolfing, Rosenkranz, Traeger and Winkelman in the list of members.

A number of good revivals resulted in increasing the number of members and keeping up the spiritual life. This society was known for its whole-hearted hospitality and liberality. They saw to it that the larder of the parsonage was well supplied.

On Aug. 15, 1911, a cyclone passed through and destroyed the home of H. Traeger, killing his beloved wife and eleven-year-old daughter Elsie, and injuring others.

From this congregation Paul A. Lang and Paul R. Mueller entered the ministry, the former having served in our conference about 20 years, and the latter a few years, when he joined the Congregationalists.

A number of large families moved away in recent years, which much weakened the congregation.

Madison

This society is situated four miles south-west of the village of Madison. J. Lorenz Knorr's was the first Evangelical family in this vicinity, having located here in 1879. G. Britzius came from Bigstone to preach for them and others. A year or so later the Gruenewald, Guenther, Jeppe, Ebel and Wallschmidt families settled on this fertile prairie. During the ministry of R. M. Mueller, in 1890, a church edifice was erected. The congregation was at this time re-enforced by the arrival of the Smith, Buchman, Gollnick and Schule families. Rev. H. Hensel held a revival meeting here, which netted 24 conversions and greatly strengthened the work. In the course of time, through removals, death, and backsliding, it was so weakened that it was proposed to lock the church and disband. The presiding elder held a consultation with the members, and it was agreed to continue. A year or two later, during the term of W. J. Vetter, the services of Evangelist E. P. Mankofsky were secured, and a great revival meeting held, in which the whole community was stirred and many souls saved. As a consequence, the church had to be enlarged, and was remodeled. The services have been held in the English language for many years.

A parsonage was bought in Appleton many years ago, but was sold in 1913, and another larger one bought. This mission

was served by A. G. Sahr, '85-'88; R. M. Mueller, '88-'91; H. A. Seder, '91-'94; H. Hensel, '94-'96; G. H. Schaefer, '96-1900; R. C. Mittelstadt, 1900-'04; S. R. Iwig, '04-'06; F. W. Siebel, '06-'07; R. R. Werner, '07-'10; C. C. Stettbacher, '10-'11; H. F. Schlaak, '11-'13; W. J. Vetter, '13-'15; H. C. Freitag, '15-'17; G. H. Schaefer, '17-'18; G. F. Hack, '18-'21; F. R. Riedel, '21-.

F. M. Ohms served Madison one year.

Madison sent two young men into the ministry within recent years, namely, James Haueter and Albert T. Nelson.

Near Montevideo we had a fair sized congregation many years ago, but for certain reasons it would not thrive, and finally was abandoned. The same fate befell the Morris appointments. This field was changed into a circuit in 1919.

Blue Earth

This region has a very heavy and fertile soil. Consequently the diligent farmers have prospered. The first settlers who became identified with our church were Henry Weber, Sen., George Ahrens, Sen., George Mitteldorf, and their families, and Fred, Mitteldorf, a single man, who located in the Blue Earth River Valley. Along this river was considerable timber, while further away there was an almost endless prairie. These early settlers needed the timber to build their log huts. These families located here in *1856*. The next year, 1857, August and John Willmert, August Kobs, A. Fandrey, with their families, and A. Welk, an unmarried man, settled in this neighborhood, east of Blue Earth City. Somewhat later came the Krinkes, Meiers, Willschnacks, Domes's, Henkes, Poetters, Koenigs, Paschkes, Sasses, Zupps, Gartzkes, Fenskes, Levenicks, Kirschners, Doeges, Werners, Oelkes, Haas's, Conrads, Boelkes, and others. They and their descendants constituted the bulk of the Evangelical stock.

For several years the first settlers lived here without any religious services. Somehow Rev. J. H. Schmitt, from New Ulm, had heard of German people living here, and so he made a journey of investigation in the summer or fall of 1860. He called on the Ahrens, and Willmert, and other families, and asked if he might preach for them. They were hungry for the Word of God and gladly consented, although they wondered whether he were a real Lutheran pastor. He soon won their confidence and their hearts. The first service was held in the schoolhouse "on the hill," as it was

familiarly called. It was situated about a quarter of a mile south of the present Emanuel's church. Brother Schmitt and C. Brill preached here until spring, alternating with each other.

In the spring of 1861 a Blue Earth Mission was formed and supplied with J. H. Schmitt as pastor. At Easter time, 1861, a revival broke out which continued until Pentecost Sunday. Sister John Willmert had already made a religious experience during the preceding February, and was, therefore, the first-fruit of our work here. Sister Mitteldorf was the first one who pressed through into the kingdom of God in a public meeting. This made a deep impression on others. The sisters Kobs, Ahrens, August Willmert and other persons dated their conversion from that meeting. Nearly all who attended the services were converted by Pentecost, and a class was organized.

E. H. Baumann served this charge from 1862 to '63. He was then a young man, and it was here that he made the acquaintance of Miss Emilie Willmert, who later became his faithful helpmate. Joseph Rahskopf had charge of this field from 1863-'65. During these years the congregation was much increased by immigration of members of our church from Wisconsin. Therefore steps were taken to build a new church. Brother Rahskopf then owned the 160 acres of land, on which Emanuel's church has now stood for many years, and donated an acre or more to the society for a building site.

The first business meeting was held in January, 1865, at which August Willmert, John Henke and August Kobs were elected as trustees. It was also decided to build a church. In the spring of 1865 the conference sent the young, energetic Brother Brill as pastor. He supervised the building of the church. The farmers had to haul the lumber from Hastings over bad roads. The church was not finished until the next year. L. von Wald preached the dedicatory sermon on Psalm 84: 1.

The first pastors who lived here resided with the Paschke family in one house. Later the ministers lived in Fandrey's log house. While E. J. Hielscher was pastor a parsonage was built near the church in 1872. This house was later enlarged. In 1902 it was sold to Julius Poetter, and a respectable new one erected under the supervision of A. H. Utzinger.

The first church became too small, so in 1887 a large new one was built. Its size is 40 by 70 feet, with two additions ("wings") of 16 by 30 feet each. It is the largest country church in our

conference. Brother Brill had the honor to also supervise the construction of this church.

The following ministers served Emanuel's church: 1860-'61, J. H. Schmitt and C. Brill; '61-'62, J. H. Schmitt; '62-'63, L. Seder and E. H. Baumann (L. Seder was killed by the Indians, Aug. 18th); '63-'65, J. Rahskopf; '65-'67, C. Brill, with J. Kienholz as assistant the second year; '67-'68, W. Giess; '68-'70, J. Kienholz; '70-'73, E. J. Hielscher; '73-'74, A. Strohmeier; '74-'76, H. E. Linse; '76-'78, J. G. Drehmel; '78-'81, L. von Wald; '81-'83, A. Knebel; '83-'85, H. Hensel; '85-'88, C. Brill; '88-'91, B. Simon; '91-'94, J. Gongoll; '94-'98, F. W. Tesch; '98-'02, J. Kienholz; '02-'06, A. H. Utzinger; '06-'11, W. A. Juedes; '11-'14, G. H. Schaefer; '14-'17, R. C. Mittelstadt; '17-'20, G. W. Hielscher; '20-'21, W. J. Vetter; '21-, A. A. Schendel.

During the pastorate of J. Kienholz, '68-'70, this church was blessed with great awakenings. The power of God manifested itself in the conversion of many sinners. Some of them had been hard cases. Brother K. says that on various occasions the glory of God became so apparent that all the people were overpowered by it. Hardened sinners would break down and cry for mercy, others would break through into eternal life, still others worked with the seekers, until the whole congregation seemed like transfigured, and all shouted for joy and praised God.

Brother von Wald had great success here. He held revival meetings one whole winter in different parts of the neighborhood. B. Simon held a long revival meeting, in which very many souls were gloriously saved. Some of the other ministers had many conversions. This church has lost heavily by removals, but has continually recruited itself from the young folks and people who moved into the neighborhood.

It harbored the annual conference four times in its midst. It has entertained a number of district meetings and two Young People's Alliance state conventions. The language question has been settled; all the services are now held in the English language. Many of the older members remember with gratitude the many blessed camp meetings which were held in different woods, at which many souls were born into the kingdom of God. This church furnished the following candidates for the ministry: J. Manthey, F. Dreblow, L. Passer, R. M. Mueller, G. A. Reckow and Fremont Willmert.

Blue Earth Station

Quite early a few Evangelical families settled in the village of Blue Earth and on farms west of it. At first they attended the services in Emanuel's church in the country. Later the ministers began to preach in town, coming in from the country. In 1887 the conference formed a Blue Earth City Mission. In 1881 a church had been built in the same block with the public school. This church was badly damaged by fire in the winter of '94-'95. During the summer of 1895 a large, practical new church was erected under the supervision of F. R. Plantikow. In 1892, while M. Gagstetter had charge of the field, a parsonage was built. This was sold and a new modern one built in 1916, under the auspices of A. Geyman.

The pastors who had charge of this place were: G. H. Schaefer, '88-'91; M. Gagstetter, '91-'94; F. R. Plantikow, '94-'96; H. Plantikow, '96-'00; J. Gongoll, '00-'04; M. Schoenleben, '04-'08; C. F. Kachel, '08-'13; A. Geyman, '13-'17; E. F. Brand, '17-'22.

Some of the early families were the Hacklanders, Millers, Johnsens and Steffens. This place was highly favored by Evangelical families moving in from the country church and from other places. It has had some good revivals, at which many souls were saved. It entertained the conference in 1897, 1902 and 1920. Several district meetings and conventions have been held in this church. It is now the largest congregation in the conference. It has many aged members. Its membership roll contains the names of many highly esteemed citizens.

Elmore

This point is situated ten miles south of Blue Earth. Our ministers began to preach near there in the eighties in the Krosch home, or in the schoolhouse. Later they held services in different places in the country, and also in town. For a while they rented the Free Methodist church. Besides the Krosch family, the Henkel, Willmert, Hager and Baum families belonged to our church in those early years. While A. H. Utzinger was their pastor a good church was bought from the Free Baptists and improved. This proved a step in the right direction, for from then on the work progressed. From the beginning it has belonged either to Blue Earth Circuit or to the Station. The names of the ministers who served this appointment can be found among those of the circuit and the station.

Brainerd

Years ago Brainerd was a lumbering town, but that industry died out when the supply of logs ceased. The Northern Pacific railroad shops have made the city what it is.

The first Evangelical minister to visit Brainerd was F. C. Schmidt, who came here from St. Cloud in 1880. He began to preach in a hotel bar-room. From '81-'83 Robert Johnsen came from Wadena to do missionary work. He did not accomplish much. For the next three years this point was served by J. Kienholz, who also came from Wadena. From '86-'88 this work was supplied by L. Passer and F. Wolter as assistant the first year, and W. A. Juedes the second. During Brother Passer's administration a church was bought in north-east Brainerd from the Methodists. Previous to this the services were held in private homes, or halls, or in the schoolhouse. In 1888 the conference created a Brainerd Mission and supplied it with C. F. Sydow, who remained one year. During his time Mrs. H. Luebke was converted, she being the first-fruit of our work. In the spring of 1889 A. H. Utzinger was stationed here and remained three years. When he came he found no parsonage, and had to look two whole days to find a house. At last he found a small three-roomed hut on an alley, into which he moved. When the presiding elder, H. E. Linse, came, he said: "This won't do, we must build a parsonage in Brainerd." That was quite an undertaking for a beginner in the ministry and a mission with only three members. The presiding elder set the maximum cost at $750.00. Many plans were made, but no suitable house could be built for that price, but a good one was erected for about $900.00. The pastor and the people who attended our services did much of the labor themselves free of charge. In October of 1889 it was ready for occupancy. The church was rented to the school district for school purposes for a primary grade, and, therefore, contained small school desks. This condition lasted several years, for the rent was needed to pay the necessary expenses and the building of the parsonage.

There never had been any prayer meetings held here. We planned how to begin them without giving offence, so we announced a Bible meeting. A few persons came, and we talked over the matter of having such gatherings, and to our surprise they stated that it had been their desire for some time to have prayer meetings. They were then continued. In February a protracted meeting was started. The presiding elder sent J. Kienholz

to assist, or, rather, to conduct it, and also to hold a quarterly meeting. During this effort eight souls were saved, one of whom was a Catholic, and 19 joined the church. A class was then organized, but the pastor was still obliged to lead the Sunday school and conduct the prayer meetings.

There was an appointment at Dagget Brook, 16 miles distant, and one near Crow Wing, 9 miles from Brainerd. At the former there were three members, at the latter none. During the next few years six other preaching places were taken up, namely, Oak Lawn, Pointon's, Warren's, Mille Lacs Lake, Bay Lake and Dyckman's. These were generally served on week days. At various revivals quite a number of souls professed conversion. Bro. Siebold was called on for assistance, and he baptized 26 adults in one day.

The names of some of the people who were identified with the early history of our church here are Strickler, Senti, Otto, Schilb, George Miller, Arnold, Luebke, Metzger, Augustin, Zander and Smith. Of these Mrs. J. Strickler and G. Miller deserve special mention. For many years the former was the mainstay of our work. She made great sacrifices for the church, and remained faithful until her triumphant death. She deserved a jeweled crown in heaven.

Brainerd was served by: J. M. Baitinger, '92-'94; L. S. Stapf, '94-'96; J. H. Muehlhaussn, '96-'98; B. Simon, '98-'02; J. G. Simon, '02-'04; H. A. Seder, '04-'08; D. Groenig, '08-'11; A. Zabel, '11-'15; E. F. Brand, '15-'17; G. P. Herbold, '17-'19; F. M. Ohms, '19-'22.

During the administration of J. M. Baitinger the church was improved and a tower built. During the pastorate of Brother Zabel the membership was much increased and an addition built to the church, and improvements made in the parsonage. Some of the early members supported the church well financially. Mr. Strickler furnished the light and fuel, and did the janitor work gratis for a number of years.

This church has had a number of spiritual quickenings during its existence, but not in comparison with some other charges. May much of the seed sown in the past spring up and bear fruit for heaven!

The country appointments were all dropped in the course of time. If they had been kept up we might have a Brainerd Circuit by this time.

Pequot

This place is about 25 miles north of Brainerd, situated in the woods. Several Evangelical families moved into that new country, which induced our minister from Brainerd, B. Simon, to preach for them. About 20 years ago this appointment was taken up. We began with the families of John Knebel, Henry Spornitz, Moody, Schroeder, Musolf, Tanzer and others. A church was built in 1908, under the direction of C. B. Frank.

In 1903 a Bemidji Mission was formed, which was later called Pequot, and at one time Emily Mission. This mission was served, part of the time, by the pastor of Brainerd. The pastors who were stationed to this mission and lived here were: J. D. Moede, '03-'05; C. C. Stettbacher, '05-'07; P. R. Mueller, '07-'08; C. B. Frank, '08-'10; G. P. Herbold, '14-'17; J. Haueter, '17-. Brother Haueter was again appointed to this charge in 1918, but he enlisted in the army and left the field, but later returned to it.

In connection with Pequot several other points, among them Jenkins, were served, but the work never progressed very much. These are the most northern points in our conference. In northern Minnesota there is a large territory which is untouched by our church.

Buffalo Lake

The town after which this circuit is named is 74 miles west of Minneapolis, on the C., M. & St. Paul Railway. In the early seventies, and, possibly, even earlier, our ministers penetrated this region. They came from Hutchinson on the north, and from Le Sueur and St. Peter on the south to take up various appointments. The fields were large at that time, and the ministers were accustomed to travel long distances. In 1876 a New Auburn Mission was formed of the appointments Henske, Altnow, Rathke, Rosenow and Klemmer. These were all named after the prominent man in the congregation. They formerly belonged to Hutchinson Circuit. Jul. Fandrey was appointed its pastor and served it one year. In 1877 F. C. Schmidt was given charge of the field, and remained three years. In 1878 he built a church near father Altnows, in the country, and did much of the work himself. He was succeeded in 1880 by C. F. Sydow, who staid two years. He built the parsonage near the church. G. Britzius served the field in '82-'85. During his time, in 1883, the name was changed to Arlington Mission. In 1893 the name was changed to Winthrop

Mission. The ministers lived in Winthrop a number of years. Again in 1901 the field was called Buffalo Lake. It will thus be seen that its name was changed quite often, which was caused by a fluctuation of the membership. The preachers who served this field after Brother Britzius were: A. J. Iwan, '85-'88; A. G. Sahr, '88-'91; F. R. Wolter, '91-'92; W. Lenz, '92-'95; J. Kienholz, '95-'96; O. Schultz, '96-1900; F. Moede, 1900-'04; G. Britzius, a second time, '04-'08; F. W. Tesch, '08-'09; F. P. Werner, '09-'12; P. Schott, '12-'14; M. Wordelman, '14-'16; F. A. Mundt, '16-'17; C. A. Tesch, '17-'21; G. A. Lippert, '21-.

Arlington

The Altnow congregation prospered quite well for a number of years. On account of some trouble in '91-'92 it went to pieces, and most of the members withdrew and joined another denomination.

Bismark

This was called the Rosenow appointment in early days. At first the services were held in private homes. A church was built in 1891, under the direction of F. R. Wolter. This church was later destroyed by a storm, but was rebuilt. Here we find the following families: H. Stark, W. Stark, Rosenow, Just, Koenig, Falk, Kiefer, Hartranf, Meier and others. This appointment, which is seven miles from Winthrop, is still kept up.

Grafton

This place is seven miles south of Buffalo Lake. From this congregation we mention the P. and J. Burgstahler, Mueller, Boelke, Hertel, Koenig and Zwirtz families. A church was erected here in 1889, during the pastorate of A. G. Sahr. This church was enlarged and remodeled in 1914 under M. Wordelman. This is still a good sized congregation.

The Rathke and Klemmer appointments were kept up a number of years and then discontinued.

Buffalo Lake

About forty years ago it was called the Henske appointment because the services were held in Mr. Henske's house. He lived near what is now Buffalo Lake. A number of Evangelical families settled here in later years, among them those of August Wiehr, the Fischer brothers, Klucas, F. Utzman and others. This society

prospered. A church was bought in 1897, while O. Schultz was pastor. The parsonage was bought in 1900 while F. Moede had charge of the field. Since then the ministers live here. The congregation has outgrown the capacity of the church, and a large, modern, new church should be built.

Duluth

Several times during the early years our conference considered beginning a work in this large and promising city, at the head of the Great Lakes. A few trips were made to that city by leading men of the conference, but nothing materialized until 1893, when it was taken up as a mission and supplied with J. M. Baitinger as its first missionary. He lived at Brainerd and served both places. In the spring of 1884 he was stationed to Duluth and moved there. During his second year, 1895, he solicited funds for the erection of a church throughout the conference for about six months, when he took sick with typhoid fever, and spent the rest of the year at Paynesville. He had already had the walls for the basement made before he took sick. In the spring of 1896 A. H. Utzinger was sent there and remained four years. He completed the collecting of money for the church in the bounds of the conference, and supervised the building of the church and parsonage, which were under one roof. The church was dedicated by Bishop Horn on Nov. 8, 1896. It cost $7254.70.

Upon our arrival we found only a few faithful members, not more than half a dozen, upon whom we could rely to do something. Often there were not more than that in the services. After the dedication of the church the work picked up slowly. At the end of four years of hard toil we left 32 church members and 90 connected with two Sunday-schools. Besides the Duluth work, we served West Superior one year, Barnum three years, and Two Harbors one year. L. S. Stapf took charge of this field in 1900, and remained four years. He did well. This church was after this served by: C. A. Tesch, '04-'06; B. R. Wiener, '06-'07; S. B. Goetz, '07-'10; R. R. Werner, '10-'14; C. B. Frank, '14-'18; E. C. Kreitlow, '18-'22.

Some of the members who stood by our work during the years were: Mrs. Tillack, Mrs. Gray, Fred Riedel, Ed. Oeder, the Strohmeiers, Rakowskys, Cress's, Kuschinskys, Bolz's, Soltaus, Wolthausens, Britzius's, Prof. Nonnamakers and others.

This is a difficult field and not much progress has been made. In 1918 the living rooms were taken out of the church building

and the auditorium enlarged. The prospects at this time for the future are promising.

Barnum

The Henry Soltau and Jacob Theis families gave us a start about five miles east of Barnum. This point was served on week days by the pastor from Duluth a few years. Afterward it was joined to Rush City Mission. A little church was built and dedicated. A few years later the appointment was dropped and the church sold.

EAST PRAIRIE CIRCUIT

Under this heading I shall give the history of the East Prairie, Prairieville, Faribault and Kenyon congregations, for they are so closely interwoven in their past and present that they cannot well be separated.

East Prairie

In 1855 Christian Erb and George P. Wolf, with their families, came from Illinois and settled on farms in this region. The next year Fr. Zimmermann, Sen., came. These were the first families of our church in this neighborhood. For some time they were without religious services. How they rejoiced when Brother Tarnutzer visited them in March, 1857! He preached the first sermon in the small home of mother Wolf. Her husband had been called from her side by death but a short time before. After the conference session in 1857 Aug. Huelster became their minister. He had such a large field that he could not preach for them regularly, although he held services nearly every day. At a camp meeting near St. Paul, Jacob Bosshardt and wife were converted and joined the church, being the first-fruits of our work here. On Aug. 9, 1857, the first class was organized with J. Bosshardt as class leader and F. Zimmermann as exhorter. The first quarterly meeting was held over Suuday, Oct. 4th of the same year, in Brother Bosshardt's home. George Escher, presiding elder, held it, and the ministers Tarnutzer and Huelster assisted. Brother H. held the first revival meeting, beginning with Christmas of this same year, and continuing over New Year. Three precious souls were converted. Several weeks later he held another protracted meeting, at which ten souls were happily regenerated. Among these converts were the brethren Bollenbach and Knauss and their wives. It is probable that the Sunday-school was organized about this time.

Both ministers and members were very active. Although they were poor, and often scarcely had their daily bread, yet they were willing to make great sacrifices for the Lord's cause. At the above mentioned meetings Brother Erb took his team and drove through the neighborhood, gathering up non-members, and conveying them to the place of worship. After the services he took them home again, so that he did not get to bed until midnight. On one occasion Brother Zimmermann went to New Trier to get six persons to a revival meeting. The services at that time were all held in their small dwellings. The power of God often manifested itself in a remarkable manner. One evening six persons were converted before the preaching of the sermon.

The next year Brother Huelster had J. H. Schmitt as his assistant. They had to travel about 500 miles to make one round on their mission. Their horses would not get much feed and were gaunt; making those long trips over bad roads and almost impassable sloughs, they would tire out. Then some of the members lent them one of their horses for a trip so the minister's horse could rest.

In 1858 people began to come in from Wisconsin, among them Mattheis and Martin Wunderlich, Wendlandt, Engel and father Yahn. Later came J. M. Wunderlich, the Bauernfeinds, Mundts, Boelters, Stegners, Hildebrandts, John Wolfs, von Walds, Iwigs and others.

In the spring of 1858 the congregation decided to build a church. A site was selected on the north-east corner of Knauss's farm, and the logs for it hauled there, but it never was erected. Later they decided to build it on Hildebrandt's land, west of the Methodist church. The logs were hauled there, but it was not logged up. Several other efforts failed. At a business meeting on July 1, 1862, a resolution was passed to build yet that summer on the site on which the East Prairie church stood for many years. It was, however, not ready for dedication until April 9, 1865. John Hammeter, P. E., dedicated it. In 1889 a new church was erected during the pastorate of F. R. Plantikow. This church was moved into the village of Nerstrand in 1916 under the supervision of C. F. Sydow.

There were 23 camp meetings held, some on the land of father Knopf, others in J. L. Stegner's, or Brother Blank's, or in Brother Bosshardt's woods. Many souls were converted in these meetings. In the early years the ministers had great success in the revival meetings. Those were good old times!

This congregation entertained the annual conference five times: the Iowa Conference in 1865 and 1866, and the Minnesota Conference in 1869, 1875 and 1891. At the first Bishop Long presided, at the next two Bishop Escher, at the fourth W. Stegner, or, rather, W. Yost, at the fifth Bishop Bowman.

During the early years this point belonged to Cannon River Circuit. This was served by: W. Stegner and C. Lahr, '59-'60; G. von Eschen, '60-'62, with C. Lahr as assistant the first year; J. Hammeter, '62-'64; W. Stegner again, '64-'66; L. von Wald and H. Brauer, '66-'67; J. G. Simon, '67-'68. In 1868 the Cannon River Circuit was divided into a Dakota and an East Prairie Circuit.

The following pastors had charge of East Prairie Circuit: '68-'70, A. Strohmeier; '70-'72, A. Knebel; '72-'75, J. H. Schmitt; '75-'78, H. Bunse; '78-'80, C. W. Sydow; '80-'82, H. E. Linse; '82-'84, J. Manthey; '84-'87, G. Spaeth; '87-'90, F. R. Plantikow, '90-'91, G. Husser; '91-'93, J. L. Stegner; '93-'96, F. G. Sahr; '96-'98, L. S. Stapf; '98-1901, F. W. Tesch; '01-'05, P. A. Lang; '05-'08, C. W. Wolthausen; '08-'10, L. Passer; '10-'15, H. Isker; '15-'17, C. F. Sydow; '17-'18, G. H. Siebold; '18-, E. A. Werner.

In 1913 the name was changed to Kenyon Circuit.

This congregation sent the following men into the Lord's vineyard as ministers: J. G. Drehmel, J. L. Stegner, M. Knopf, W. C. Stegner, J. H. Bauernfeind, J. J. Boelter, E. H. Bollenbach and S. R. Iwig.

Sister Susan Bauernfeind, a missionary in Japan, is a daughter of this church; also Mrs. S. J. Umbreit, of Japan.

About six miles from the East Prairie church another one was built in 1870, under the labors of A. Knebel, at *Prairieville.* Here a fair-sized congregation was gathered. From the early beginning the work prospered. Many good revival meetings were held. Some of the families favorably connected with our work were the Wunderlichs, Eigenbrods, Hildebrands, Schreibers, Yenkels, Meyers, Mahlmans, Neumans, Schmidts and others. This congregation was not affected by the church trouble. Part of the time it belonged to the Faribault charge.

Quite early several of our families moved into the city of *Faribault,* and our ministers soon followed and began to preach for them. In 1879, during the pastorate of C. W. Sydow, a church was built. In the spring of '79 the conference formed a Faribault Mission, but it was served by the East Prairie minister. It

had 32 members in the spring of 1880. At this time G. Husser was stationed here. He was under the supervision of H. E. Linse. Probably they changed off in preaching at the different appointments of Faribault and East Prairie charges. In 1881 L. von Wald was assigned to this place, but remained only one year. The pastors who served Faribault after this were: G. Spaeth, '82-'84; J. G. Drehmel, '84-'87; A. Huelster, '87-'90; A. J. Iwan, '90-'91; C. F. Kachel, '91-'94; H. Isker, '94-'96; E. J. Hielscher, '96-'98; J. Gongoll, '98-1900; A. Zabel, 1900-'04; J. G. Simon, '04-'06; C. A. Tesch, '06-'10; R. M. Mueller, '10-'15; A. R. Zick, '15-'18; H. C. Schmidt, '18-'20; H. Plantikow, '20-.

In 1907 a new, modern, spacious church replaced the old. C. A. Tesch oversaw the building operations. In this sanctuary the Minnesota Conference held its fiftieth anniversary jubilee session. An appropriate program had been prepared by a conference committee and was well rendered. In 1916 a new, modern parsonage replaced the old one which had sheltered so many ministers and their families. In 1917 Faribault was elevated to the position of a station. Many families had moved in from the country, which increased the membership.

Near *Kenyon* lived a good, loyal family by the name of Koberstein, in whose home our ministers preached many years ago. Later our preachers began to preach in the village, in a rented church. L. S. Stapf was the first of our ministers to live in Kenyon. In 1904 the old parsonage at East Prairie was sold and a house for this purpose was bought here. Since then this place has become the center of the field in importance, if not in location. While H. Isker was their pastor a fine new church was constructed. This church has also received many members by families moving in from the country, and is in a thriving condition. They entertained the district meeting a few years ago.

Fairmont and Jackson

In 1868 H. C. Blank and H. P. Drewes from Preston settled in the Elm Creek neighborhood, near the present Triumph. George Hopp, also from Preston, had preceded them. It is claimed that P. Bott was the first Evangelical minister to visit these people and preach for them, which was in 1870. E. J. Hielscher and P. Bott served Blue Earth Circuit in that year and pressed forward to the new settlements to the west, taking up a number of appointments. Enough appointments had been started in this new region to justify the conference in establishing a Jackson

Mission in the spring of 1871. It was supplied with Peter Bott, who remained two years. Father Hielscher served the appointments nearer Blue Earth, while Brother Bott worked westward. In 1871 the Bursack, Goetz and Roetz families came from Wisconsin, and then an Elm Creek class was organized. The services were held mostly in George Hopp's home, it being the largest in the class. In 1873 Jackson Mission was supplied with W. Oehler. This field had grown so large that in the fall the presiding elder sent F. G. Sahr to the assistance of Brother Oehler. The latter took the western part of the field and left Brother Sahr the eastern appointments. In this year they secured 34 conversions and 87 accessions to the church.

In 1874 F. Moede was stationed here. The field was divided and a Yankton Mission created. Brother M. remained three years. During his time this region suffered from the grasshopper plague. G. H. Siebold was assistant pastor in 1876-'77. B. Simon had charge of the mission, '77-'78. In the spring of 1878 the large Jackson Mission was divided. A Martin County Mission was formed of the appointments Shelbyville, Willow Creek, Elm Creek, Finkes, Bickels, Koenigs, St. James and Raeths, and supplied with Geo. Spaeth, who came from the college that spring. He remained two years and enlarged the mission by several appointments. In 1880 the name was changed to Fairmont Mission. Since then it was served by H. Hensel, '80-'83; G. H. Siebold, '83-'84; L. S. Stapf, '84-'86; F. C. Schmidt, '86-'89; G. Britzius, '89-'92; A. Reeck, '92-'95; J. Graeben, '95-'98; W. A. Juedes, '98-1900; O. Schultz, 1900-'03; C. W. Sydow, '03-'07; G. A. Lippert and H. C. Schmidt, '07-'08; G. Britzius, '08-'10, with H. C. Schmidt as assistant the first year; G. H. Schaefer, '10-'11; J. Manthey, '11-'15; L. Strothman, '15-'17; E. C. Kreitlow, '17-'18; P. J. Smith, '18-'19; E. G. Podoll, '19-'20; W. Schneider, '20-.

In the year 1900 a Sherburn Mission was formed of the western end of Fairmont Mission. This field was served by W. A. Juedes, 1900-1901; K. Meckel, '01-'02; C. G. Roesti, '02-'05; C. C. Engelbart, '05-'07; H. C. Schmidt, '07-'09, under supervision of G. A. Lippert the first year, and G. Britzius the second; H. F. Schlaak, '09-'11; C. C. Stettbacher, '11-'15. In 1915 the name was changed back to Jackson Mission. W. J. Vetter served it '15-'17; G. F. Hack, '17-'18; C. G. Roesti a second time, '18-'21; Edward Zellmer, '21-.

A short sketch of the local societies follows:

Welcome

This appointment was called Elm Creek in the early days. Besides those mentioned above, we find here the Schwartz, Jagodzinski, Girold, Philipps, Klussman and Jarchow families. At first our ministers also preached at Finke's home, south of Welcome, but later this family attended the services north of Welcome. M. F. Goetz was the first class leader and William Bursack the first Sunday-school superintendent. The first three families built a log house for a residence for the minister. It served its purpose for a number of years. In 1890 a new church was built four miles north of Welcome under the direction of G. Britzius.

On June 5, 1880, a cyclone passed through here, which blew over the house in which Julius Goetz lived and killed him. The minister, H. Hensel, and his family lived in the same house, but escaped with minor injuries. This incident was a loud warning to the whole community to be prepared for eternity.

Fairmont

About six miles south of Fairmont lived the Bickel family, later the Vogel family moved here. Our ministers preached here quite early. Later they began to preach in Fairmont. A church was built in 1900 under the supervision of O. Schultz. To this church belonged, besides those mentioned above, the Rademacher, Stellrecht and Wege families, and, later, the Wolf, Sydow, Unke and other families.

Sherburn

About six miles north-west of this place settled a family named Raetz, who kindly received our pastors, and helped them start an appointment. Later Louis Schaefer, and then Henry Schafer moved into the neighborhood. Here the services have been held in private homes and in schoolhouses for many years. Conrad Werner, a local preacher, moved into Sherburn and helped the work along by preaching whenever called upon. In 1887 a parsonage was erected in Sherburn under the direction of F. C. Schmidt. For many years the ministers lived in it, but we never succeeded in establishing a church here, and, therefore, the conference sold it in 1915, and used the proceeds, $2000, to buy a parsonage in Jackson. The Schaefer appointment belongs to Jackson Mission at the present time.

Jackson

Probably the first Evangelical family was the Eby family, which moved here from Preston and settled near Jackson. Many an Evangelical minister enjoyed their hospitality and preached in their home. It served as a sort of base for operations farther west. The main congregation, however, gathered six miles south of the city. Here were found the William, Henry, Ben. and Dan Eggestein, the Hausfeld, Helmke, Sanders, Buchman, Wilmers, Meyer and Sieckert families. Farther west lived three Hirschel brothers with their families. A church was built under the supervision of A. Reeck in 1893. This was damaged by a storm, but was rebuilt and improved under the direction of C. C. Engelbart in 1906. These people were favorably known for the unstinted support they gave their ministers. Many successful revival meetings were held in former years, in which many souls were converted. Here, also, a couple, by the name of Herman Eggestein, was killed by a tornado on a Saturday night, which caused great excitement and grief for the Sunday, which was a quarterly meeting Sunday.

By this time the English language prevails almost exclusively in all of these appointments. The other early appointments have either been dropped or merged with others. The minister now preaches regularly in the city of Jackson, most of the members from the country having moved there.

FARMINGTON CIRCUIT

The appointments New Trier, Emanuels, Tabor or Castle Rock, and Farmington are so closely interwoven in their history, that they naturally come under the above heading.

As early as 1854 Joe Towler and Thomas Vincent settled near where now stands the Emanuel's church. A son of the latter became a minister of our church in Oregon many years afterward. In 1856 Emanuel Stapf, father of Rev. L. S. Stapf, and Michael Mueller located here, John G. Becker in 1857, and Michael Betzold in 1858. It is probable that Aug. Huelster and John Schmitt had visited these people and preached some for them in 1858. In the spring of 1859 a Cannon River Mission was formed and supplied with W. Stegner and C. Lahr. From this time on our ministers preached here quite regularly. The first years were a time of seed-sowing. Not until 1862 did they have any conversions. The first convert was Mrs. Susan Becker, who had the

good fortune to attend a camp meeting at East Prairie, and there to find rest for her soul. In September, 1863, a grove meeting was held in Michael Betzold's woods, under the supervision of I. Kuter, presiding elder. G. von Eschen served the field from '60 to '62, having C. Lahr as his assistant the first year. J. Hammeter had charge of this extensive field from '62-'64. Then W. Stegner was returned again for a term of two years. During this time a great revival broke out, at which many precious souls were converted. The meetings were conducted by W. Stegner, assisted by W. Giess. At this time the church was organized. L. von Wald and H. Brauer were stationed here in 1866. During this year the *Emanuel's* church was built and was dedicated March 10, 1867. The ministers Strohmeier, von Wald and Brauer were present. During these meetings 16 persons were converted and a number received into the church. That was a grand church dedication. The next year Brother von Wald had J. G. Simon as his assistant. In the spring of 1868 the Minnesota Conference held its first session in this church. It was a memorable gathering. Bishop Escher presided. Emanuel Stapf had the honor of entertaining the worthy bishop in his home during that time.

The charter members of this church were Emanuel Stapf, Catharine Stapf, William and Henrietta Noack, John G. and Susan Becker, Christian and Friedericka Klaus, Ludwig and Magdalena Mueller, Nicholas and Dorothea Kraft, Conrad and Elizabeth Michel, Henry and Johanna Traut, Michael and Henrietta Betzold, John and Barbara Manke, Nicholas Michel, Henry Kraft, Minna Steidlein, John, Anna and Jacob F. Stapf, J. J. Becker and Mary Becker. Of these all have passed into eternity excepting Jacob F. Stapf.

New Trier

While Aug. Huelster was on his way from St. Paul to East Prairie on June 26, 1857, he inquired about German settlements. Near New Trier he met a man who told him about one near there, and gave him a number of names. Brother H. followed his directions and found said neighborhood. The first home he stopped at was that of J. Bachun. Their little hut had a roof consisting of tent cloth. They received the servant of God kindly. He found here the families of John, George and Joachim Ista, Eigenbrod, Kaufmann, Bunse, Schwen, and August and Fr. Haverland. He received permission to preach for them. Because he kneeled during prayer they suspected him to be a Methodist. Here, as at

other places, the Evangelical song-book helped to dispel their fears. During the year 1858 there occurred a great religious awakening among these people. People were convicted during the usual preaching services, in prayer meetings, and in protracted efforts, and soundly converted into eternal life. At this time a church was organized, consisting of 36 members. Nearly all of them remained faithful to God and the church.

The first one to be converted was Augusta Bachun, a fourteen-year-old girl. For this her enraged father drove her away from home. After some time the father much regretted his action, called her home again, and was soon himself converted. This society prospered very well for many years. They built a church under the supervision of G. von Eschen in 1860, and at the same time a parsonage. Their pastors lived here for many years. Some of the families moved to St. Paul, and other places, which for a season reduced the membership. This society has been a mission by itself for a number of years, and been served by pastors who lived in the twin cities.

Castle Rock

This place is so called from a large rock, which fancy claims looks like an ancient castle. H. E. Linse took up this place as an appointment in 1871, and since then it has been served by Evangelical ministers. During the administration of E. H. Baumann, in 1876, the congregation was incorporated and a church built. Several Ehler families and the Ottos, Dehmans, Hintz's, Schultz's, Trauts and others were members of this church, which is called the Tabor church. In 1881 the Minnesota Conference convened here under the chairmanship of Bishop Dubs.

Farmington

Many years ago several Evangelical families moved into Farmington. More than 30 years ago our ministers began to preach here. A. Reeck, as assistant pastor, was the first to live in this city. At first the congregation was small, but soon received increase from the country appointments and became quite a strong society. In 1902, under the leadership of G. H. Schaefer, a church was bought. This was enlarged and improved in 1912, while F. R. Riedel was the pastor. The old parsonage at New Trier, which had been improved several times, was sold and one bought in Farmington in 1903.

The ministers who served some of the appointments of this field previous to 1868 were A. Huelster, John Schmitt, W. Stegner, C. Lahr, G. von Eschen, J. Hammeter, L. von Wald, H. Brauer and J. G. Simon. Dakota Circuit, formed in 1868, was served by J. von Eschen, '68-'69; J. H. Schmitt, '69-'71; H. E. Linse, '71-'74; E. H. Baumann, '74-'76; J. Manthey, '76-'79; F. Emde, '79-'82; W. Lenz, '82-'85; H. Ohs, '85-'87; G. Spaeth, '87-'90, with A. Reeck as assistant the last year; J. Graeben, '90-'93 (from 1888 till 1893 this field was termed Dakota and Farmington Circuit); W. A. Juedes, '93-'95; F. Moede, '95-'96; A. J. Iwan, '96-'98; G. Britzius, '98-1902 (in 1900 the name was changed to Farmington); G. H. Schaefer, 1902-'05; R. M. Mueller, '05-'10; H. Hensel, '10-'12; F. R. Riedel, '12-'15; F. A. Frase, '15-'18; G. H. Siebold, '18-'21; C. A. Tesch, '21-. J. M. Baitinger and G. Britzius served New Trier a few years.

This field experienced some great revivals in the early years. It was considerably reduced in membership by people moving away. In recent years it was recuperated by the conversion of its young people. It furnished H. Bunse, L. M. Mueller and L. S. Stapf for the ministry. May it continue to prosper.

Fergus Falls

This field has been known at various times as either the Fergus Falls, or the Elizabeth Mission. F. Emde was the first Evangelical minister to visit this region. He came up from Paynesville in October, 1869, and preached the first sermon in the home of August Schacht. In the spring of 1870 the Sauk Centre Mission was formed, with Fergus Falls as a part of it. Adam Walch was appointed to this field. The next spring, in 1871, a Fergus Falls Mission was created and supplied with A. Walch, who remained two years. So Rev. Walch served this region for three years. He was succeeded by the fiery L. Passer, who stayed two years. He had good success and really laid the foundation for the future work. In his first year Casper Zimmermann, Abraham Zimmermann, August Schacht, Peter Knobel and Fred Wiesbrod and their wives were converted. In his second year 11 more were saved. Among the early members, besides the above, we find the names Condoux, Krause, Schliesser and Henry Knobel, with their families.

August Schacht was the first Sunday-school superintendent and class leader. The early class leaders of the other classes

were Max Ehrhardt, Thomas Zimmermann, Jacob Schefi. The exhorters were Fred Schacht, Peter Knobel, Abr. Zimmermann and Herman Naegeli.

Brother Passer took up new appointments to the west and north-west, entering and laying the foundation for future fields in Dakota. In 1875 J. Gongoll became pastor of the field and remained one year. During his time, Dec. 20, 1875, the first business meeting was held. John Schmitt acted as chairman and J. Gongoll as secretary. The incorporation was completed on Jan. 4, 1876. They decided to build a church the next spring. C. Zimmermann donated five acres of land for this purpose. The church was dedicated July 16, 1876. It will be seen that it was erected in a comparatively short time.

In the spring of 1876 C. F. Sydow was stationed on the mission, but remained only three months on account of impaired health. J. Gongoll was returned to the charge by the presiding elder to fill the vacancy. He had 38 conversions and 43 accessions that year. At the end of the year the mission had 71 members and consisted of 7 appointments. J. Gongoll and W. Passer served the field '77-'78.

From this time on the field was served by A. C. Schmidt, '78-'80; J. Kienholz, '80-'81; C. Oertli, '81-'83; F. C. Schmidt, '83-'86; W. J. Vetter, '86-'88; H. A. Seder, '88-'91; W. A. Juedes, '91-'93; F. Schild, '93-'96; H. Hensel, '96-'98; F. W. Siebel, '98-'01; D. Groenig, '01-'05; F. F. Arndt, '05-'10; M. Wordelman, '10-'14; R. R. Werner, '14-'16; D. Groenig, '16-'17; F. R. Riedel, '17-'21; C. G. Roesti, '21-.

Elizabeth

To the above may be added that a parsonage was built near the church in early years, in which the ministers lived for a number of years. Later the ministers preferred to live in Fergus Falls, and the house was sold in 1907. Most of our families moved to Fergus Falls and other points, so that the congregation is quite small now.

Flats

The work was started here, some 20 miles north-west from Fergus Falls, by Aug. Schmidt in the later seventies. For many years the services were held in private homes and the schoolhouse. On March 21, 1895, the congregation incorporated. John Wey-

rauch, John Wasmuth and Jacob Steiner were the first trustees. A church was built the same year under the supervision of F. Schild. The congregation secured 40 acres of land on which the church is located. Here it was that a crowd of ruffians, under the leadership of a certain K., disturbed the revival meetings. They even went so far as to throw beer bottles through the windows, cutting the faces of some of the congregation. Two nights later this same K. was run over by a train and instantly killed. Since no other minister would bury him, they had to come to ours to ask him to preach the funeral sermon. "The way of the transgressor is hard." "They are utterly consumed with terrors." This society always remained small.

Western

About 16 miles south-west of Fergus Falls is the open prairie country called Western. G. W. Hielscher came here in 1880 from Breckenridge, and took up an appointment. Wm. Fabians were the first to receive him and opened their home for the preaching services. The services were held in their home for a number of years. Peter Mumm was the next man to preach for these people. After his time the appointment was joined to Fergus Falls and served by the ministers of that field. In 1887 W. J. Vetter had a great revival which laid the foundation for the future stability of this society. In 1890, during the pastorate of H. A. Seder, the church was built. The Fabian, Mittelstadt, Will, Neuman and Umland families were some of the earliest members. Wm. Gehrke moved here a little later. Some of these families have since moved to Fergus Falls.

Fergus Falls

This is the county seat of Otter Tail County and is a thriving city. We have had Evangelical families living here from almost the beginning of our work in this region, and several attempts were made to preach, but they failed on account of a lack of attendance at the services. But in 1905 D. Groenig attempted it again, a few more families having moved in, and succeeded in holding the appointment. At first he preached in the homes of our people, then he rented a hall on Washington Avenue, and later the Baptist church. Next our people rented the Norwegian Methodist church. This Methodist congregation soon after dissolved, and our people, under the leadership of F. F. Arndt, bought the church in 1908. A parsonage was also acquired at

the same time, and since then our pastors have lived in Fergus Falls. In August, 1912, a heavy blow was dealt this small flock by the destruction of their church by a cyclone. Although at first discouraged, yet they rallied under the leadership of their pastor, M. Wordelman, and built a nice new church, which was dedicated in June, 1913, by Bishop S. C. Breyfogel. The congregation grew quite rapidly from this time on. In June, 1919, another tornado badly wrecked this new church. In three months the damages were repaired and the services continued in it. The old parsonage was sold and a lot bought beside the church and a new, modern parsonage built on it in 1919-'20 under the supervision of F. R. Riedel. Our work here was begun with the Peter Knobel, H. Stahl, W. Will, John Altner, C. Scholer and Zimmermann families. There are about one hundred members in this congregation now.

Hammond

It is difficult to determine who was the first Evangelical minister to serve this region, but it is a matter of record that it was a part of the old Cannon River Mission, which was served by W. Stegner and C. Lahr in 1859, and by Geo. von Eschen and C. Lahr in 1860, and by Geo. von Eschen alone in 1861. Therefore it is probable that it was one of these ministers who penetrated into this vicinity and took up the preaching appointments at Hay Creek and Frontenac. These two points were constituted *Frontenac* Mission by the Iowa Conference in 1862, and supplied with Geo. von Eschen as its first pastor, who remained two years. In 1864 W. Giess was stationed here, and in 1865 J. H. Schmitt, who was followed by F. Emde in 1866. Brother Emde had charge of it two years. At this time (1868) it had 91 members and a parsonage, but no churches. It consisted of the appointments Frontenac, Hay Creek, Rochester, Kasson, Pleasant Corner, Mantorville and Austin, and probably one or two more points. In 1868 the Minnesota Conference, which was then organized, divided the field by detaching the last five appointments named, and forming a Rochester Mission. E. H. Baumann was given charge of Frontenac Mission. In 1869 Rochester and Frontenac Missions were united under the name of Rochester Mission and supplied with E. H. Baumann and J. von Eschen. In 1870 the appointments Frontenac, Hay Creek, Buchanan, Kasson and Pleasant Corners were constituted Kasson Circuit, and supplied with J. von Eschen. In 1871 J. L. Stegner was sent to this field. In 1872 Frontenac, Hay Creek and Buchanan were added to East

Prairie Circuit, which was served by J. H. Schmitt. In 1873 these last named appointments, together with Fairpoint, were formed into a Redwing Mission, and supplied with G. Yahn, who remained two years. In 1875 Fairpoint, Buchanan and Pine Island were detached from Redwing Mission, and Bear Valley was added to it. This is the first mention made of Bear Valley. M. Knopf was stationed here and remained three years. Wm. Fritz served the field from '78-'81. After this for three years it was served with Kasson Circuit, F. Moede being the pastor. In the fall of 1884 C. F. Kachel was sent here by the Presiding Elder, and remained until 1888. At this time the ministers lived in Frontenac. He was succeeded by H. Plantikow, who remained three years. During Brother Kachel's time the church in Redwing was rebuilt. Under the supervision of H. Plantikow a church and parsonage under one roof were built in Frontenac in 1888, and a church in Bear Valley in 1890. This field was served by C. A. Tesch, '91-'94; F. R. Wolter, '94-'96; F. W. Siebel, '96-'97 (at this time the name was changed to Hammond Mission); F. F. Arndt, '97-'01; A. G. Sahr, '01-'05; J. Graeben, '05-'08; W. Walter, '08-'12; F. J. Knuth, '12-'17; H. F. Schlaak, '17-'19; supplied by C. C. Engelbart in 1919. In 1897 a new parsonage was built in Hammond under the supervision of F. F. Arndt. The church and parsonage in Frontenac had been sold in 1896. The church in Hammond was built in 1881.

In the vicinity of *Hay Creek* there existed a flourishing class in the early years. It furnished a number of ministers, among them being F. G. and A. G. Sahr, Wm. Lenz, G. Friedrich, J. L. Stegner and J. Kienholz. A church was built at an early date. After some years the people began to move away, the church was sold and moved to near Odessa, and the appointment abandoned.

Our ministers began to preach in *Frontenac* in the sixties. The society never grew very strong. The ministers resided there for some years. Among our leading families were the Stichs, Mrs. J. Schneider, Chas. Herder and Hausmanns. Finally the congregation dwindled down so that the church and parsonage had to be sold and the appointment dropped.

At *Redwing* quite a church had been gathered, and the minister lived there part of the time. During one year, while served by W. Fritz, 23 souls were converted. Among our leading families were the Olsons, Jaus's, Mrs. Christopherson. Here also the people moved away, the church had to be sold and the appointment discontinued.

A little later than at the above points our ministers began to preach in Bear Valley, a country point. Here we find among the early members the Freiheit families, the Krienkes, Mantheys, Melcherts, Fellmans, Kackmanns. A neat country church was built in 1890. This congregation still thrives, although it also lost heavily by removals.

The ministers have lived in *Hammond* since 1897. Here the work was begun many years ago. The society never grew strong, but still exists. Some of the leading families were the Kruegers, Dickmanns, Wegners, Melcherts, Schalinskys, Bartschs, Albrechts and Fuerstenaus.

Wm. Walter took charge of the field again in 1920.

Hutchinson

Hutchinson has for many years been considered a very desirable charge. Its history dates back to the year 1859. In that year John H. Schmitt, who served New Ulm Mission, and probably made his home at Cottonwood, now Searles (he was then a single man), in search for new appointments, pushed northward as far as Hutchinson, where he found German settlers, and preached for them. In those days ministers were scarce, and the people were pleased to receive almost any one who could preach to them in their mother tongue. In the spring of 1860 New Ulm Mission was supplied with J. H. Schmitt and C. Brill, and they served the Hutchinson appointments alternately. Their appointments increased so that they could not serve them satisfactorily, and C. Lahr from the Cannon River Mission was requested to preach near Hutchinson at stated times. In the spring of 1861 C. Lahr and Aug. Nierens were given charge of the field and served the Hutchinson region.

In the spring of 1862 Hutchinson was taken from New Ulm and added to Paynesville Mission. F. Emde had charge of the field, but Aug. Nierens, from Crow River preached at Hutchinson occasionally until his death in September, 1862. In the spring of 1863 a Hutchinson Mission was formed of the appointments near Hutchinson, and Keneske, New Auburn and Rush River, and supplied with H. Bunse for one year. He was succeeded by J. von Eschen in 1864. Then followed J. Kienholz in 1865, and W. Giess in 1866. At the conference session of 1865 Hutchinson was left to be supplied, on acccount of a shortage of ministers. W. Giess supplied it from Carver Mission until the presiding elder secured

J. Kienholz, whom he induced to leave the farm and go out preaching. J. H. Schmitt was the pastor here, '67-'69; H. E. Linse, '69-'71; F. Emde, '71-'74; F. G. Sahr was assistant pastor in '71-'72. In 1873 Hutchinson was constituted a circuit. Then followed P. Bott, '74-'76; G. H. Knebel, '76-'77 (part of this year F. R. Plantikow served the field); J. Kienholz, '77-'80; G. Britzius, '80-'82; C. F. Sydow, '82-'85; H. Isker, '85-'88; C. F. Kachel, '88-'91; H. Hensel, '91-'94; J. Manthey, '94-'98; G. H. Siebold, '98-'01; A. Huelster, '01-'04; M. Gagstetter, '04-'05 (M. Gagstetter became ill and B. Simon completed the year); H. Isker, '05-'10; P. A. Lang, '10-'13; J. Gongoll, '13-'15; R. M. Mueller, '15-'21; S. B. Goetz, '21-.

The *Acoma* appointment probably was the first. The services were held in the small homes of the people or in schoolhouses until a church could be built, which was about in the year 1870. This point grew into a strong congregation, which was noted for its piety and liberal support of their ministers. Among the early families were found those of John Schulz, Wm. Nass, father Froemming, father Hartwig, father Harmoning, Carl and Fritz Popp, Conrad and Dobratz. A parsonage was built in 1868, and the early ministers lived here in the country. In 1905 the church burned down and a good, new one, was erected under the supervision of H. Isker. The membership was recruited from year to year through successful revival meetings, at which many souls were saved. A number of profitable camp meetings were held in John Schulz's woods.

The second appointment in point of time was at *Biscay*. This grew to be a fairly strong church under the faithful labors of the pastors of the charge. A church was built many years ago, which still serves its purpose. Through death and removal this society lost heavily and now consists of only a few families. Among the early members we find here the Heitz, Ulrich, Hagen, Tasche, Rickemann, Hassman, Malchow, Luedel and Miller families.

In the city of *Hutchinson* our ministers began to preach in the early eighties. C. F. Sydow began the work here. A parsonage was bought near the river and the ministers moved into the town. Later this was sold and another bought two blocks from the church. In 1889 a church was built under the supervision of C. F. Kachel. This served as a place of worship until the society outgrew its capacity, when it was enlarged and remodeled by H. Isker in 1907. Among the early names are found those of

Philip and H. Kaercher, Mrs. Pagel, Geo. Beck, Wm. Conrad, Krienke and Drake. Later many Evangelical families moved in from the country appointments and other places, so that it grew to be much the largest of the three societies. Our members are highly respected in this community.

Kasson

Some German families settled south-west of Kasson in the early sixties. Undoubtedly the first Evangelical pastor who visited this region came from Preston. The Sunday-school was organized in the fall of 1864 with 11 scholars, and was held in the home of John Klampe. The first schoolhouse was built in 1868, which then became the place for holding the church services. It is remembered by some that D. N. Long preached there, which must have been in 1866. The early families of our church were those of John, Gottlieb and Gottfried Klampe, M. Frey, Lorenz Schuster, father Trapp, George Yahn, Joachim Bartel, Christian Schmitt, Geo. Rahskopf, Ulrich Kienholz, Fred Buegler and others.

Who were the first Evangelical ministers to work in this neighborhood has not been ascertained, but W. Giess and John Schmitt may have come over from Frontenac Mission prior to 1866. From '66-'68 F. Emde served this appointment. In '68 it was added to Rochester Mission and served by G. H. Knebel one year. The next year it was served by E. H. Baumann and J. von Eschen. In 1870 a Kasson Circuit was formed of the appointments Frontenac, Hay Creek, Buchanan, Kasson and Pleasant Corners, and supplied with J. von Eschen. From that time on the following pastors supplied this field: '71-'73, J. L. Stegner; '73-'74, E. J. Hielscher, with F. G. Sahr as assistant part of the year and G. von Eschen the rest of the year; '74-'77, G. von Eschen, with F. C. Schmidt as assistant during the last year; '77-'79, A. Walch; '79-'82, E. H. Baumann; '82-'84, F. Moede; '84-'86, G. Yahn; '86-'89, C. W. Sydow; '89-'91, L. Passer; '91-'93, F. F. Arndt; '93-'97, A. Huelster; '97-'01, G. Duebendorf; '01-'04, M. Gagstetter; '04-'08, A. Huelster again; '08-'13, H. A. Seder; '13-'18, H. C. Schmidt; '18-'20, C. Nauman; '20-'21, A. H. Nauman; '21-'22, Earl Utzinger.

In 1876, under the supervision of G. von Eschen the first church at *Pleasant Corners* was built. It was dedicated by Wm. Huelster. This church was struck by lightning, Aug. 11, 1909, and burned to the ground. A new church was built again, H. A. Seder being the pastor, and dedicated March 28, 1910, by Bishop Thos. Bowman.

E. H. Baumann had a great revival in '79-'80, resulting in 44 conversions. A. Huelster had one in '93-'94, resulting in 35, and G. Duebendorf one in '99-1900, which netted 35 converts.

This congregation entertained the conference in 1894, and the Young People's Alliance state convention twice, and several district meetings. It lost heavily several times by so many families moving away, but has always been recruited again by new converts.

Some Evangelical families moved into the city of *Kasson* many years ago, and our ministers have preached there all these years, but usually on Sunday afternoons. During the pastorate of C. W. Sydow, in 1886, a parsonage was bought, so the ministers could live in Kasson. H. A. Seder had it enlarged in 1908. The preaching services were usually held in a rented church. It is to be regretted that we did not build a church in K. long ago and build up a strong congregation there. Other churches in K. and Dodge Center have gotten many of our people. In the spring of 1921, Sargent was detached and with Waltham constituted a mission. A parsonage was built in Sargent the same year.

Sargent

This point is about 18 miles south-west of Kasson. The families Heydt and Meyer, who came from Wisconsin, were the beginning of our work here. At first the minister from Hamilton Circuit served them, but later they were joined to Kasson Circuit. As a result of new families moving in, and several successful revivals, the little flock grew, so they were able to build a neat little church in 1899, under the supervision of G. Duebendorf. It was dedicated by Bishop Bowman. It is the only church in the town. The prospects for the future are good. A. H. Nauman was appointed to Sargent in 1921.

Fairpoint

Our ministers began to preach here in early years. A number of families were gained for our church, so that a church could be erected in 1876. It was served from Kasson for many years, but in later years from Kenyon. The Sorn, Stanke, Yahn, Schmidt and Wunderlich families belonged to our church.

LAMBERTON AND WABASSO

In 1870 a few Evangelical families from New Ulm Circuit moved into the town of Germantown, south-east of Lamberton. The first ones were those of Valentine Bott, Wm. Wegner, August

Bader, Fred Jahnke and August Werner. J. G. Drehmel was the first Evangelical minister to preach for them. He came from New Ulm Mission in 1872. The services were held in their sod-shanties. The people were poor. J. G. Simon attended to their spiritual wants in 1873. A class was organized with V. Bott as cleass leader and A. Bader as exhorter. When they had no preaching services they held prayer meetings. In the spring of 1874 this appointment was joined to Redwood Mission, which was supplied with C. W. Sydow. From '75-'77 L. Passer had charge of this field. In 1877 a Lamberton Mission was created, consisting of nine appointments.

The pastors who had charge of Lamberton field were: E. F. Movius, '77-'78; J. G. Drehmel, '78-'81, with F. R. Plantikow as assistant the first year; H. Isker, '81-'83; M. Gagstetter, '83-'85; O. Schultz, '85-'88; F. F. Arndt, '88-'91; G. H. Schaefer, '91-'94; G. Britzius, '94-'98; C. F. Kachel, '98-'02. In 1901 the appointments Wabasso, Springfield and New Avon were detached from Lamberton Circuit and constituted Wabasso Mission. K. Meckel served Lamberton Circuit '02-'04; F. G. Sahr, '04-'08; B. Simon, '08-'13; F. W. Tesch, '13-'18; F. A. Frase, '18-'21; F. J. Knuth, '21-.

In 1915 the field was divided again, and the city of Lamberton was constituted a mission. It was served by J. Gongoll, '15-'18; M. Wordelman, '18-'20; supplied by J. Gongoll and E. Melzian, '20-'21; E. Melzian, '21-.

Wabasso Mission had for its pastors: C. G. Roesti, '01-'02; H. Hensel, '02-'06; B. Simon, '06-'08; J. D. Moede, '08-'11; C. C. Engelbart, '11-'15; A. A. Schendel, '15-'18; F. F. Arndt, '18-'22.

The Germantown congregation has had several memorable revivals. H. Isker had 23 conversions on the field in one year. M. Gagstetter also had a successful awakening, which did the church much good. In the summer of 1884 a camp meeting was held in the woods of Brother Moody, at which the power of God manifested itself in the awakening and conversion of many sinners. Some people who came out of mere curiosity to see what was going on, and who kept themselves in the back part of the camp, were convicted of their lost condition, and began to cry for mercy, and pressed through into the kingdom of God. The ministers J. H. Schmitt, F. Emde, B. Simon and M. Gagstetter preached the Word. They long remembered this meeting. During the winter of '99-1900 C. F. Kachel had a great revival in the Zion's church, which resulted in many conversions. This has been one of the successful centers of our conference.

The first church at *Germantown* was built during the administration of L. Passer, about the year 1876. This church was much enlarged and remodeled in 1900, under the direction of C. F. Kachel. In it the annual conference held its sessions in 1901, and again in 1918. The first parsonage was built in 1877. A new one was erected in 1898, while C. F. Kachel was the pastor. E. F. Movius should have credit for the first one.

Father Fred Juhnke deserves special mention here. He was a faithful and efficient helper to all the ministers who served this field. He often accompanied them to the various revival meetings, talked with sinners about their souls, and prayed with seekers at the altar. He also assisted much with the singing. If we had many such laymen the church would make much more progress.

Some of the well-known names are those of Werner, Redman, Gohde, Wegner, Matzke, Moody, Griese.

The ministers F. P. Werner, R. R. Werner and E. A. Werner are sons of this congregation. E. F. Brand also comes from here.

The appointment *Red Rock* has always been served in connection with Germantown, and, therefore, had the same pastors. For years the services were held in houses and the schoolhouse. In 1898, under the supervision of C. F. Kachel, a neat new church was built. Many successful revival meetings have been held.

Some preaching has been done in the little burg of Jeffers, where some of our members live.

Quite a number of years ago a few Evangelical families moved into the village of *Lamberton.* For some time they came to the services in the country church. Brother Sahr began to preach in town, and in 1906, under his direction, a fine new church was constructed. It was dedicated Nov. 4, 1906, by Bishop Bowman. This congregation was rapidly increased by families moving in from the country.

Wabasso Mission

It consists of three appointments: Wabasso, Springfield and New Avon.

At or near *Springfield* our ministers have preached for a long time. A church was built there in 1889, while Brother Arndt was pastor. Some of the families constituting this church are those of J. Baumann, Kersten, Timm, Krueger.

At *New Avon* we had the families Beier, Georgius, Stassen, Bill, Dahms, Detweiler, Werder, Hauptle, Weber, Lindemann,

Muerset, Georgius. A church was built under the supervision of G. Britzius in 1896. It was dedicated by Bishop Horn.

In *Wabasso* a church was constructed in 1900 under the direction of C. F. Kachel. The parsonage was built in 1901 under the supervision of C. F. Kachel and C. G. Roesti. Here the names of Bagdon, Bott, Bock, Siewert, Neuenberg are intimately connected with our work.

Some of the early settlers in the Lamberton region made sad experiences during the grasshopper plague, when these insects destroyed their crops for four and five years. People and cattle nearly starved. They had to go elsewhere to earn money so that they could buy the necessaries for their existence. Even the Government had to assist them.

Le Sueur and Le Sueur Center

These fields were early camping grounds of the Evangelical ministers. As early as Sept. 4, *1857*, Aug. Huelster, the early pathfinder of our work in Minnesota, found a German settlement where, later, the *Bluhm* church was built, near Lake Elysian. Here he was received by a family named Karow, in whose house he preached that evening. Less than two years later a happy revival occurred, at which all were converted who attended the services. It was the founding of that society. Later a church was built. Here lived the Bluhm, Rosenau, Matz, Wetzel and other Evangelical families.

A short distance further north-west was located the *Kobler* appointment. Here a church was built many years ago. There resided the Kobler, Vath, Yaeckel, Sievecke and other members. The church was sold later and the appointment discontinued because our families had moved away.

Near Le Sueur Center we had another appointment. It was often called the Pope church. For many years our ministers preached in the homes of the people or in the schoolhouse. In the spring of 1863, under the labors of J. H. Schmitt, a great awakening took place. The meetings were held in the dwellings. The families Neuenberg, Soltau, Bornhold, Shumacher and Hielscher were gloriously saved. Brother Hielscher later became a chosen vessel in the kingdom of the Lord. Most of these families moved away and helped build up the work at other places. Dietrich Pope and his family were staunch and loyal members of the church.

Later the church was moved into the village of Le Sueur Center. For some years there was a parsonage in this town, and the ministers lived there, but after some years it was sold.

For years these three appointments constituted Le Sueur Centeh Mission, but in recent years on account of the scarcity of ministers it was joined with other fields in various ways. Several other small appointments were served in connection with this charge during a part of the time, as Waterville, Montgomery, etc.

The following ministers served this field: O. Schulz, '89-'91; A. J. Iwan, '91-'94; F. Moede, '94-'95; H. Ohs, part of the year, until he withdrew from the church; A. T. Ehlert, '96-'99; S. R. Iwig, '99-1900; F. P. Werner, 1900-1904; F. W. Siebel, '04-'06; supplied by F. R. Wolter, '06-'07; C. C. Stettbacher, '07-'08; E. Helmer, '08-'11; E. F. Brand, in connection with Morristown, '11-'13; F. W. Schendel, same, '13-'14; E. A. Werner, from Le Sueur, '14-'18; K. Meckel, the same, '18-'22.

St. Peter

From the first visit to the Karows, Aug. Huelster went to St. Peter the next day and began to make preparations for a preaching service on Sunday. He secured a small Swedish church for the afternoon. Then he invited a goodly number of families to the services. At the appointed time he preached to ten persons on Rom. 1: 16. That was the beginning of our work in St. Peter. Our ministers continued to preach here from that time on, taking up country appointments round about and pressing on further west. John Schmitt, J. G. Simon and F. Emde were of the early preachers. A congregation was gathered and a church organized. In 1872, during the pastorate of A. Strohmeier, a new church was built in St. Peter. The ministers lived there a number of years. For a time there was a St. Peter District and the Presiding Elder lived there. Finally most of our members moved away, there were no accessions, the work was abandoned and the church sold. This happened about the year 1890.

In 1889 St. Peter Mission was discontinued, and Nicollet joined to New Ulm and the other appointments to Le Sueur.

The ministers who served this field were: Aug. Huelster, 1857-'58; the next year J. H. Schmitt was Huelster's assistant; A. Strohmeier, '71-'73; J. L. Stegner, '73-'76; J. G. Simon, '76-'79; W. Oehler, '79-'82; J. H. Schmitt, '82-'85; F. Emde, '85-'88; G. Britzius, '88-'89. From 1860-'71 these appointments belonged to other fields.

Rush River

Seven miles west of Le Sueur we have a church. The appointment is called Rush River. Very early our ministers preached here and secured a foothold for our future work.

In the early membership lists are to be found the names Silcher, Kuske, Schnake, Freese, Foelzke, Muehlhausen, Martin, Wendelschaefer, Gutzmer and Koenig. In 1874, under the supervision of A. C. Schmidt, a substantial church was erected. Many successful revival meetings were held here. Many of the members moved away and helped build up other Evangelical churches.

Le Sueur Prairie, or Sharon

This point is situated seven miles east of Le Sueur. Quite a strong society was gathered here many years ago. At one time the conference was to be held in this church, but for some reason the place of meeting was changed. There was a parsonage near the church, and several ministers lived in it, among them J. G. Simon and M. Gagstetter. Here lived the Conrads, Zielaffs, Beckers, Pauls, Viehmanns, Eckharts and others. The old parsonage was disposed of about 1890, and one built in Le Sueur. The church and lot were sold in 1914 for $95.00. Thus ends this appointment after a long life.

Le Sueur

Several Evangelical families moved into Le Sueur from the country congregations and then our ministers took up this place as a preaching point. L. S. Stapf had a good revival meeting which helped the cause along. B. Simon built the parsonage in 1892. The church was erected in 1890 under the direction of Bro. Stapf. This congregation never grew strong. Various causes contributed to its weakness. It consisted mostly of retired farmers.

A long list of ministers has served this field: W. Stegner, '60-'61; H. F. Linse, '61-'62; J. H. Schmitt, '62-'64; F. Emde, '64-'65; J. von Eschen, '65-'66; E. H. Baumann, '66-'68, with G. H. Knebel as assistant the second year; G. Yahn and John Drehmel (in connection with Wilton), '68-'69; J. Drehmel, '69-'70; J. G. Simon, '70-'71; J. von Eschen, '71-'73; A. C. Schmidt, '73-'75; J. Kienholz, '75-'78; H. Hensel, '78-'80; M. Gagstetter, '80-'83; H. Isker, '83-'85; G. Britzius, '85-'88; L. S. Stapf, '88-'91; B. Simon, '91-'94; J. Gongoll, '94-'94½; W. Lenz, '95-'97; L. Passer, '97-'01; W. A. Juedes, '01-'04; J. Manthey, '04-'08; F. G. Sahr, '08 to his death in June, 1909; F. Moede, '09-'12; H. Hensel, '12-'14; E. A. Werner, '14-'18; K. Meckel, '18-'22.

Luverne

Luverne is in Rock County, the south-western corner of the state. The soil is exceedingly productive, and farmers thrive. Rev. P. Bott was the first Evangelical preacher to arrive here. He was the pioneer minister in south-western Minnesota. He came in 1872 and preached the Gospel to those who came to hear him. In 1873 Wm. Oehler was stationed on Jackson Mission. On account of bad weather and the great distance to travel he did not arrive at Luverne until July 22d, nearly three months after conference. He spent several days visiting and inviting families to the services. Among the families visited were the Bahnsens and Mickelsons. Sunday, July 27th, he preached his first sermon in Wm. Nuerenburg's home. After having preached twice he baptized five children and organized a church society with sixteen charter members as follows: Fred Nuffer, Martin Bertuleit, John Miller, Carl Loose, Wm. Nuerenburg, C. Carner and their wives, and Emilie Bertuleit, Mrs. Gust. Loose and Mary Loose. Fred Nuffer was elected the first class leader. Soon after the Bahnsen, Mickelson, Hoefer, Ohs, Taubert, Zellmer, Borchert, Rogge, Munz, Thaden and Frank Loose families affiliated with this church. Later yet the Oesterli, Engel, Finke, W. Passer and Spriesterbach families were added.

The Sunday-school was organized April 12, 1874, at Aug. Loose's home. It has existed ever since and has done much good.

The first quarterly meeting was held over Sunday, Aug. 17, 1873, by Wm. Stegner, presiding elder, in Carl Loose's home. The next day he and Wm. Oehler began their first missionary trip into Dakota. They found many people who were hungry for the Word of God and preached at various places. Brother Oehler was then given charge of the Dakota appointments. On Dec. 7th of the same year, at the second quarterly meeting, held at the Loose home, 19 souls were happily converted and 17 united with the church. This gives an idea of the character of many of the quarterly meetings of those days.

There were no schoolhouses, nor large, roomy dwelling-houses, in which to hold the ever growing meetings, and so they decided to build a temporary meeting-place. A large tent was constructed of boards, horse-blankets and bedsheets, across the road from where Wm. Loose now lives.

In 1874 the congregation was incorporated as the Ebenezer Church of the Evangelical Association. The same year six acres of land were purchased and plans made to erect a church. But,

alas, the grasshoppers came, took the crop, and frustrated this undertaking for the time being. The next year, however, the members mustered courage and built a church on the purchased site. Probably no church in our conference was erected for use in so short a time. The lumber for the building was brought to the place on Wednesday, July 7th, and on Friday evening, the 9th, the first service was held in it. This church gave way to another church considerably larger in 1884, under the supervision of G. H. Siebold.

In 1881 a parsonage was built near the church, which served as a home for the ministers 32 years. It was enlarged and improved at times, but in 1913 a fine new one was built at a cost of $3000.00.

Several camp meetings were held in the grove, on the parsonage grounds. The conference convened here in 1896. This congregation sent out two ministers of the Gospel: H. Ohs and H. Lukensmeier.

A number of glorious revival meetings were held by different pastors. C. W. Wolthausen held one in which 28 souls were saved and 23 united with the church. F. W. Schendel secured the services of Evangelist E. P. Mankofsky, who conducted a revival in 1916, in which 25 souls accepted Christ as their Saviour. This greatly strengthened the congregation, which had been weakened by so many people moving away. The English langauge was substituted for the German in all the services. There is quite a strong Sunday-school and church society at this place at the present time. The church was destroyed by fire Dec. 16, 1917. This was a hard stroke for the congregation, but heroically they went to work and built a large, modern, new church at a cost of $10,220, and paid for it. This society has long been noted for its liberality in church affairs.

Larchwood

Quite early our ministers found their way to this point and preached here for many years. Brother Bahnsen was the main member and gave liberally to the church. He raised a model family. The Fry and Hans Schmidt families also took a prominent part in this congregation. A church was built in 1902, under the supervision of F. W. Siebel. Several years later father Bahnsen died, and his son Newton moved to Inwood, Iowa, so the work dwindled down so far that the appointment was dropped and the church sold in 1917.

Steen

This is a little town six miles from the Ebenezer church. The appointment is of a more recent date than Ebenezer. The Aukes, Winkowitch, Ahrens, Schoen, Rollert, Riss and Schellhaas families were among the earlier and more prominent members of our church. A new church was constructed in 1894 under the direction of C. W. Wolthausen. Arthur Riss was recommended for the ministry by this congregation. A prosperous Sunday-school has existed for many years. Mr. Winkowitch was one of the earlier superintendents. The German language was used exclusively for many years, but now the English is used half of the time.

Magnolia

Our ministers had an appointment in or near this town for some years. About ten families attended our services. Of these we would mention the Goembel, Rusch and Turner families. The appointment was discontinued in the early years of this century.

The ministers who served this field were: W. Oehler, '73-'76, with B. Simon as assistant, '74-'76; B. Simon and H. Ohs, '76-'77; L. Passer, '77-'80; Wm. Passer, '80-'81; W. C. Stegner, '81-'83; '83-'84, W. Passer; G. H. Siebold, '84-'86; L. S. Stapf, '86-'89, with R. M. Mueller as assistant the first year, and S. B. Goetz the second; F. C. Schmidt, '89-'92; C. W. Wolthausen, '92-'95; E. H. Bollenbach, '95-'98; D. Groenig, '98-'01; F. W. Siebel, '01-'04; K. Meckel, '04-'08; C. C. Stettbacher, '08-'10; O. Brose, '10-'15; F. W. Schendel, '15-'21; H. F. Rieke, '21-.

MANKATO

Undoubtedly Brother A. Huelster has the honor of having been the first Evangelical minister to visit and preach in Mankato. We have a record of the fact that he took the presiding elder, George Escher, there on July 23, 1858, and that Brother E. preached in the home of a Brother Stutz that evening. It appears that our ministers did not continue to preach here at that time on account of a lack of interest among the people. In 1861 George Roos, and in 1862 Ben. Bangerter, with their families, moved from the Cottonwood River into Mankato. They were Evangelical families and for many years were of our principal members in the city. It appears that the preachers who served Le Sueur Mission preached in Mankato at that time. If so, then H. E. Linse must have done missionary work in '61 and J. H. Schmitt in '62 and

'63. F. Emde is known to have been one of the early ministers, having worked here in '64 and '65. In 1865 a Mankato Mission was formed, including Mankato, Cottonwood, Sale's, Courtland and Nicollet, and supplied with F. Emde. From '66-'68 H. E. Linse had charge of this field. In 1868 this field was composed of Mankato, Schnake's, St. Peter and Ott's near Mankato. In 1869 Schnakes was detached and joined to Hutchinson, and Winnebago Agency (now St. Clair) taken up as an appointment of this mission. The first quarterly meeting recorded was held Sept. 12, 1868, in a schoolhouse near Schnake's place (now Rush River). There were present F. Emde, as representative of the presiding elder, W. Giess, preacher in charge, E. J. Hielscher, assistant pastor, J. H. Schmitt from Hutchinson, M. H. Friese, class leader, Seibold, class leader, and Wm. Kuske, steward. The Mankato congregation was incorporated in 1868 and called Jerusalem's church. The following pastors served this field: '68-'70, W. Giess; '70-'72, A. Strohmeier; '72-'73, W. Oehler; '73-'74, P. Bott; '74-'77, G. H. Knebel; '77-'80, F. G. Sahr; '80-'82, H. Ohs; '82-'84, F. R. Plantikow; '84-'87, J. Manthey; '87-'88, J. H. Schmitt and R. M. Mueller; '88-'90, C. Brill; '90-'92, A. Reeck and F. H. Draeger; '92-'94, F. W. Tesch; '94-'96, A. J. Iwan; '96-1900, H. Isker; 1900-'04, F. G. Sahr; '04-'06, W. A. Juedes; '06-'11, R. C. Mittelstadt with M. Wordelman and, later, P. R. Mueller as assistants part of the time; '11-'12, G. H. Siebold; '12-'15, A. A. Schendel; '15-'16, J. Manthey; '16-'17, M. O. Siewert; '17-'19, E. Podoll; W. H. Wiener, '19—.

During the first years the services were held in the log schoolhouse, where now the Union School is located. In 1872, during the pastorate of W. Oehler, the church was built. J. Manthey was pastor when the parsonage was built in 1884. During the same year, under the supervision of H. Bunse, P. E., the district house was built across the street from the church.

During nearly all of these years a number of appointments were served in connection with Mankato, which deprived this place of preaching services half of the time on Sunday forenoon. That was one reason why it could not prosper. The Margraff, Braunlich, John Simon, J. Hauch and C. Malchow familiese were connected with the early history of this church.

St. Clair

This place was called Winnebago Agency in the early years. It was the site of an Indian agency. Father and mother H. Miller,

who had joined our church in Milwaukee, were the first Evangelical members at this place. They requested that an Evangelical minister should come out and preach for them, and when one came they got busy and invited people to the services. Other early members here were the C. Dittman, John Gekeler, F. Lumburg, Schultz and N. Juliar families. The first church was built by G. H. Knebel in 1876. In 1912 a nice new and modern church was built under the supervision of J. D. Moede at a cost of $6725. In 1910 a parsonage was bought beside the church and enlarged and improved at a cost of $1800.

For many years there were no conversions here, and people became discouraged and indifferent. At a revival meeting in 1909, at which A. H. Utzinger assisted R. C. Mittelstadt, one girl was converted and others were convicted. This was the beginning of a long series of successful revival meetings. In the following summer father N. Juliar urged his relatives to attend the camp meeting at Rice Lake. He stood for about all of the expenses. Here about a dozen of them were happily converted into eternal life, among them being Robert Haedt and Mrs. George Juliar. That brought spiritual life into the St. Clair church. The prayer meetings were started and kept up all the year, even during harvest. Every winter, during the annual revival meeting, and in the summmer at the camp meetings, a harvest of souls was gathered in until about everybody was saved who could be induced to attend the services. Since then this church has been in a flourishing condition.

For a number of years there was a small appointment about five miles south-east of Mankato, called *Ott's* appointment. This died out in the course of time. Another place, called the *Cobb River* appointment, was served a number of years and then discontinued. The families Jacob and George Kaufmann and F. Lumburg, Jr., lived here.

Amboy and Willow Creek

Quite early our ministers preached at Willow Creek. Father Hielscher had an interesting tilt here with a Lutheran pastor. The Schwanke family was the mainstay of our church at this place.

At *Amboy,* formerly called Shelbyville, the work was also begun early. Some of the principal families were those of B. Truwe, J. Baumgartner, F. Afholder, M. Kienholz, W. Busse. In 1890 a church was built under the supervision of A. Reeck and

F. H. Draeger. In later years this church suffered severely by a schism. This appointment was at first served from Blue Earth, later from Mankato, then sometimes with St. Clair, or alone. The list of pastors who served this place can be found in the account of those several fields. In recent years Amboy and St. Clair were served by P. R. Mueller, J. D. Moede 3 years, G. F. Hack 2 years, H. A. Zieske 3, and H. H. Georgius 1919-'21; G. W. Hielscher '21-. J. Manthey served Amboy a few years.

For a number of years our ministers preached at *St. James.* John and David Sturm lived here. The people moved away, and the appointment was discontinued.

Maple Grove

This field is some twenty miles west of Minneapolis. In early years part of this region was heavily wooded. Rev. Aug. Huelster passed through here in the spring of 1858 and found a number of German families who were without religious services. Among them were Carl Sausele and a Mr. Schneider. He preached the first sermon for them on Good Friday, April 2, to about 30 adult persons. He also baptized four children. This was the beginning of our work here. In the spring of 1859 H. E. Linse, then a young minister, was given charge of the Upper Mississippi Mission, including Maple Grove. He served it on horseback, remaining two years. He received the first members into the church in the early part of 1861. O. Ragatz and F. Emde were stationed on this mission in 1861. Brother Ragatz and family lived with the family of Bro. Buchholz in one house at Maple Grove. Soon after this a log parsonage was built on the land of Carl Sausele. It is probable that John Schmitt, who was the colleague of Aug. Huelster, also visited this region in 1858 and preached for the people. This inference may be drawn from baptisms which he performed. C. Brill and E. H. Bauman were the missionaries here from 1863-'65. These were the Civil War years.

A log church was erected on the land of father Noth. In '66 Wm. Stegner came on this field. He was followed by J. von Eschen in '67. J. G. Simon took charge of it in '68 and remained two years. G. H. Knebel preached one year on this field, '70-'71. In 1871 this field was called Maple Grove. Before this it was known by so many different names that it is difficult to determine to which mission these appointments belonged. About this time or a little later a new church and parsonage were built on their

present site. Some of the earliest Evangelical families were those of Carl Sausele, Christ Schneider, Friedrich Miller, Friedrich Bonn and Friedrich Reinking. Later the Kottke, Klatt, Krause, Walter, Kriefall, Juedes, Schoch, Hartfiel, Dumann, Stelter, Wulkow and other families were added. The fathers and mothers have nearly all gone to heaven, and their descendants carry on the work of the church.

Hanover

This appointment is about seven miles from the Maple Grove church. O. Ragatz was the first Evangelical preacher to look up the German families living here. He preached the first sermon in Michael Schendel's log cabin about in 1861 or '62. The services were held regularly in this home for 23 years. In 1885 a church was built under the supervision of L. Passer. In 1875 H. Hensel held a great revival meeting in Schendel's home. At one time this family kept 40 persons, who had attended the services, over night, the men sleeping on straw in one room, and the women on bedding in the other. The M. Schendel, A. Borngesser, F. Bingenheimer, Jacob Bingenheimer and Philip Schneider families constituted part of the early membership. Later the Adelmann, Esterly, Hartfiel, Mahler, Shillig, Schuler, Weier and other names were added to the membership lists.

The pastors who served this field from 1871 on were: W. Lenz, '71-'73; A. Walch, '73-'75; H. Hensel, '75-'76; C. R. Koch, '76-'78; M. Knopf, '78-'81; Geo. Haller, Sr., '81-'82; H. E. Linse, '82-'83; L. Passer, '83-'86; J. Kienholz, '86-'89; J. Manthey, '89-'91; R. M. Mueller, '91-'94; H. A. Seder, '94-'98; C. F. Sydow, '98-'01; F. F. Arndt, '01-'05; G. H. Schaefer, '05-'08; M. Wordelmann, '08-'10; G. Britzius, '10-'15; H. Isker, '15-'19; G. P. Herbold, '19-'20; G. Britzius, '20-'21; O. Brose, '21-.

The Maple Grove congregation furnished our conference two ministers: Wm. Walter and W. A. Juedes, and the Hanover society one: Lorenz Adelmann.

One of the best revival meetings was held by Brother Seder, in which about 40 souls were happily converted. Brother Passer also had a glorious meeting, in which many souls were saved. During M. Wordelman's pastorate, Rev. Zabel, as evangelist, had a good meeting. Other ministers had good success here. The prevailing language until recently was the German, but the younger generation speak the English and demand it in the services.

Isanti

Very early in the history of our conference this region was considered a mission field for us. The mission sailed under a number of different names. It was called Sunrise, Rush City, Princeton and Isanti Mission at different times. It contained the Streichs, Rush City, Princeton, Brook Park and other appointments. None of them thrived, but the Streich society has held out until the present day. At this place they have a small church.

Much of this region is sandy. It was hard for man and beast to make the long trips from one point to another. Part of the time it existed as a separate mission, and the rest of the time it was served with Maple Grove.

MARSHALL

The first Evangelical missionary to visit Marshall was H. Loewen. He preached the first sermon there on Good Friday of 1887, in the home of L. E. Ehlers. A class was organized at that time, consisting of the following members: Henry Freese and wife, Henry Borchart, L. E. Ehlers and wife, Wm. Miller and wife. Brother Freese was elected class leader and L. E. Ehlers exhorter. A Sunday-school also was organized, with Bro. Ehlers as superintendent. From 1887-'88 this point was served by John Preiss. These first ministers belonged to the Dakota Conference. In 1888 Marshall was transferred to the Minnesota Conference. It belonged to Pipestone Mission for one year and was served by S. B. Goetz and G. A. Lippert. In 1889 a Marshall Mission was formed. The pastors who were privileged to serve this charge were: C. W. Wolthausen, '89-'92; Wm. Blanchard, '92-'93; A. Zabel, '93-'95; F. H. Draeger, '95-'98; H. A. Seder, '98-1900; C. A. Tesch, 1900-'04; G. W. Hielscher, '04-'07; O. Schultz, '07-'12; F. P. Werner, '12-'16; H. H. Georgius, '16-'19; H. A. Zieske, '19—.

At first the services were held in the homes or in the schoolhouse in the country. In the year 1899 the Marshall church was built under the supervision of H. A. Seder, and dedicated by Bishop Breyfogel in the spring of 1900. The first parsonage was bought in 1907. It was later sold and a new one built on the church lot under the supervision of H. H. Georgius in 1918.

Memorable revivals occurred during the pastorate of S. B. Goetz and G. A. Lippert, A. Zabel, H. H. Georgius and H. A. Zieske, in which many souls were saved, while the rest of the pastors also had good success.

Clifton

This appointment is situated seven miles south-east of Marshall. Rev. Wolthausen began to preach here in 1889 in a schoolhouse. Rev. Zabel organized a class on Feb. 28, 1894. C. J. Spong was elected class leader and George Shaw exhorter. Forty-six members were received at that time. That was a good start. A neat country church was built in 1905, during the pastorate of G. W. Hielscher. Several good revivals resulted in recruiting the membership. A good Sunday-school has helped the work.

This field recently furnished three promising young men for the ministry, namely, Frank Spong, Edwin Moede and Arnie Ehlers.

Hendricks

About the year 1880, or even earlier, several Evangelical families settled on the fertile prairie near Hendricks. F. R. Plantikow was the first missionary to look them up and preach for them. He made his home for a while with Fred Kurth and family. Their second minister was H. Loewen, who afterward joined the Dakota Conference. Among the first families we find those of Fred and Henry Kurth, John, Philip and Jacob Gagstetter, John and William Stegner, Henry Juehnke, Edward Sieckert, Adam Kurth, Julius Fandrey, Henry Vogt, Charley Ried, Charles Sittie, Henry Markman, L. Koberstein, Kohlhoff, Ed. Benz, Wm. Schmidt, A. Kochendorfer and Henry Boller.

During the early years it belonged to Marshall Mission. In 1901 a Hendricks Misison was organized. It was served by W. Walter, '01-'02; G. J. Krienke, '02-'03; B. Simon, '03-'04; C. C. Stettbacher, '04-'05; C. G. Roesti, '05-'09; M. O. Siewert, '09-'10. Served by students during the summer and from Marshall during the rest of the year, '10-'16; James Haueter, '16-'17; Arthur Riss, '17-'18; from Marshall since 1918. On account of the scarcity of ministers this point could not be supplied as desired, and consequently not much missionary work could be done.

MAYER

This field was known for many years as Crow River charge. It got its name from the Crow River, which flows through that region. H. E. Linse was the first Evangelical minister to penetrate into this vicinity, which was then a heavily wooded country. He preached the first sermon on July 3, 1859, near Watertown, in the little log hut of the Auer family. On his second missionary

trip he went further south-west and entered the Wetter and Wechsler settlement, which he took up as a preaching place. He continued to serve this point till the spring of 1861. In 1861 the conference sent O. Ragatz and F. Emde to take charge of St. Paul and Crow River charges. The second year Brother Ragatz had Aug. Nierens as his assistant. In the year 1863 John Simon, Sr., moved to this neighborhood from St. Paul with two of his children. He settled in Hollywood Town. He and mother Wechsler were the first members of our church in this region. For some time the services were held in father Simon's home. In the autumn of 1863 Brother Ragatz organized the first class. J. G. Simon, who was then only 17 years of age, was elected class leader and Christian Haueter exhorter. The Sunday-school was organized at the same time, and Christ. Haueter was elected its first superintendent.

In the spring of 1863 the Paynesville and St. Cloud appointments were joined to Crow River Mission. C. Brill and E. H. Baumann were appointed to take charge of this large field. The next spring some of the appointments of Crow River Mission, probably Mayer and Hollywood, were joined to Carver Mission, which was served by L. von Wald. In the spring of 1865 Brother Wechsler donated a piece of ground for a parsonage, where the Hollywood church now stands. In the same year J. G. Simon received his recommendation for the ministry, he being one of the early candidates in our conference. From '65-'66 Carver Mission was served by W. Giess. The next year Hennepin and Carver Missions were served together by W. Stegner and Aug. Knebel, the latter serving the Crow River appointments most of the time. At the conference session in 1867 a Crow River Mission was formed and supplied with J. Kienholz. At this time the Hollywood class was divided into the Haueter and Simon classes. In the summer of 1867 the Haueter class began to build a log church near where Mayer is now located. During the following winter Brother Kienholz had a great revival in this church, at which many people were converted, among them B. Simon. In the spring of 1868 C. Werner was sent as minister to this charge. During this summer the church was finished on the inside, and dedicated by Bishop Escher. At this time a Sunday-school was organized in the Simon, or Hollywood class, with Adam Walch as its first superintendent. Brother Walch received a recommendation from his class and was licensed to preach in 1869. Brother Werner had a great revival during the winter, in which many

were converted who afterward were influental and faithful members of our church. It was spoken of for many years. In the spring of 1869 the work was given into the hands of L. M. Mueller. He took sick during the year and was compelled to withdraw from the field. Beginning with the spring of 1880, W. Giess and J. L. Stegner served these appointments. From '71-'73 J. Manthey had charge. During his time the Hollywood church was built. He did much of the carpenter work himself. He would preach two or three times on Sunday, and then work six days on the church.

From now on the following ministers served Crow River charge: G. H. Knebel, '73-'74; F. Emde, '74-'76; W. Lenz, '76-'79; P. Bott, '79-'81; W. Fritz, '81-'83; A. C. Schmidt, '83-'86; E. J. Hielscher, '86-'89; J. Kienholz, '89-'92; C. F. Sydow, '92-'95; H. Bunse, '95-'98; A. G. Sahr, '98-'01; J. Graeben, '01-'05; D. Groenig, '05-'08; J. Manthy, '08-'11; R. C. Mittelstadt, '11-'13; B. Simon, '13-'15; J. Graeben, '15-'16; L. Reep, '16-'17; F. J. Knuth, '17-'21; R. M. Mueller, '21—.

In the year 1882 a new parsonage was built in Montrose, and the ministers lived there a number of years. In 1891 this parsonage was sold and a new one built in the village of Mayer, under the supervision of J. Kienholz. He also supervised the building of a new church in 1889 in the same town.

The Mayer and Hollywood congregations recommended the following candidates for the ministry: J. G. Simon, Adam Walch, H. Hensel, J. Gongoll, B. Simon, F. W. Tesch, C. F. Yenny, J. G. Haller, Sr., G. A. Lippert, C. A. Tesch, Fred Haueter, G. Kowalke. There probably is no other field in the conference which furnished so many candidates for the ministry. Seven of them have a long term of service in our conference to their credit, and one of them, J. G. Simon, served eight years as presiding elder.

Some of the families connected with the early history of our work at Hollywood were the Walchs, Simons, Wujans, Wechslers, Wetters, Pfaefflings, Kowalkes, Schoepplers, Tesch's, Popp's, Zumachs, Arndts, Blums, Schochs, Lipperts, Engelkes. At Mayer were the Haueters, Gongolls, Gloeges, Blocks, Mix's, Zuerchers, Pretzels and others.

There were many blessed revival meetings held at these places, many souls being converted into eternal life. A number of camp meetings were held in the woods of the brethren Arndt and Kowalke. Our work here has also suffered by people moving away, yet good-sized congregations are still in existence.

Montrose

Quite a class had been gathered at this point. A church was built during the pastorate of P. Bott in 1880. The pastors lived here for about ten years. Among the prominent families of our church may be mentioned the names of Klatt, Leuzinger, Ruppelius, Schumacher, Kraus, Kreitlow and L. Miller. So many of our people moved away, and others died, that the few who were left became discouraged, and we had to drop the appointment, and sold the church to the Lutherans for $688.74 in 1914.

MINNEAPOLIS

At the conference session held at Pleasant Grove, in 1870, Minneapolis was taken up as a mission, to be served in connection with Maple Grove. Gustave Knebel was stationed there as the first missionary. He had to begin the work with strangers to our church. A Mrs. Sonnenburg, who lived at the corner of Third and Hennepin Streets, permitted him to preach in the second story of her home until a better place could be found. The first service was held at this place on July 17, 1870. The text of the sermon was 1 Corinthians 1: 23. The services were held in this house for six Sundays. One dollar a Sunday was paid for the use of this room. At the close of the six weeks an old brick church, situated at the corner of First Avenue, North, and Washington, was rented at $3.50 a Sunday. For the use of this church during the next conference year, Mr. Merriam wanted $400.00 rent. This the conference could not pay, so they secured the use of an Episcopal chapel, corner of Fourth Street and Hennepin Avenue, which cost them nothing. During the second year a lot was purchased on the corner of Fourth Street and Sixth Avenue, North, for $1200.00. The building operations for a new church were begun in September, 1871, and it was finished in record time, so it could be dedicated on Nov. 26th of the same year. The church itself cost $1587.95. What a difference between then and now!

During the first year the minister lived at Maple Grove. He had two members in the city, five at Schindel Creek and two at Cedar Lake brickyard.

The second year he served Minneapolis alone, and from then on the ministers lived in the city.

Among the first members were Jacob Bingenheimer and Jacob Keller. Fr. Miller was the first class leader and Carl Schmidt the first exhorter. M. Heldmeyer was the second exhorter. Bro.

G. Knebel served this mission acceptably for three years. J. Manthey was sent in 1873 and also remained three years. He reported 21 conversions during his term of service and raised the membership from 20 to 62. In 1876 Wm. Stegner was assigned to this charge and stayed three years. He had 20 conversions during that time, but lost so heavily by removals that the membership sank down to 42. J. G. Haller took charge of the field in 1879 and remained two years. He increased the membership to 53, although he had only four conversions. In 1881 E. J. Hielscher was stationed here. He raised the membership to 91, and had 16 conversions in two years. In 1883 Wm. Stegner became pastor of this mission for the second time, but he was called away by death in the midst of his work in August, and the church was served the remainder of the year, and the next also, by E. H. Baumann. From this time on this field was served by J. G. Simon, '85-'88; H. Bunse, '88-'91; H. Isker, '91-'94; C. F. Kachel, '94-'98; A. Geyman, '98-'01; S. B. Goetz, '01-'05. Brother Goetz was the last resident pastor of the Sixth Avenue Church. In 1905 it was merged with the Highland Park church into the First Evangelical church.

The Sixth Avenue church had undergone several changes during these years. During the pastorate of Brother Kachel it was remodeled. A parsonage was built beside the church in 1878 under the supervision of Wm. Stegner. In 1883 a district house was erected on the rear of the lot fronting Sixth Avenue. Here the presiding elders of the Minneapolis District resided until 1902, when it was sold for $2250. A duplex tenant house was built on the same lot, but it did not prove to be a paying venture. In 1918 this whole property was sold for $10,500. The church building had been previously sold. The main reason why our church had to leave this vicinity was because it was almost entirely settled by Jews in the course of time.

Highland Park

Quite early a number of Evangelical families settled in the extreme north end of Minneapolis. For a number of years they attended the Sixth Avenue church, but began an agitation for a new church in the vicinity of their homes. At the conference session of 1887 a North Minneapolis Mission was established and supplied with J. I. Seder as pastor. He served it two and one-half years, when he left as missionary for Japan.

During 1887 a new church was built at the corner of 25th Street and Fremont Avenue, North. In the summer of 1888 a parsonage was erected back of the church. This mission was known from now on as the Highland Park Mission. Twentieth Avenue, North, was the boundary line between the two missions. When Brother Seder left E. H. Baumann took charge of it until the next conference session. After that it was served by J. M. Baitinger, '90-'92; F. G. Sahr, '92-'93; G. Duebendorf, '93-'97; S. B. Goetz, '97-'01; F. W. Tesch, '01-'04; F. R. Plantikow, '04-'05. At this time it was merged into the First church.

The First Church

Preliminary steps had been taken by both Minneapolis churches, prior to the conference session of 1905, to organically unite. The conference sanctioned this action and gave more explicit directions. F. R. Plantikow was stationed there as pastor. It required considerable wisdom and diplomacy to consummate the merger and supervise the building of a new church and parsonage. A building site was secured on Emerson Avenue, near Twentieth. A large, modern church was erected, which is a credit to our work. On the north side of the church a large, modern parsonage was built, and on the south side a district house, the latter in 1906. The whole property is worth $30,000 or more. F. R. Plantikow continued as pastor until 1910. A. Geyman served it '10-'13; C. Nauman '13-'18; M. Schoenleben, '18—.

South Minneapolis

For many years Evangelical members settled in this part of the city. Some few of them attended our services in the north church, but most of them strayed into other churches or became churchless. The Minnesota Conference realized long ago that it ought to have a mission here, but a lack of men and means and initiative delayed the project. In 1911 a South Minneapolis Mission was established, but not supplied with a pastor. In 1912 J. M. Baitinger was appointed to supply it and remained two years. The services were held in a rented church on Sunday afternoons. During the beginning of the year '13-'14 the services were discontinued. In 1914 H. S. Frank was appointed to this field, but he was soon after conference transferred to Fergus Falls. In the spring of 1920 the conference took action to build a chapel. C. B. Frank, C. F. Kachel, M. Schoenleben, A. Geyman and H. Plantikow were appointed the building committee. The building was erected during the summer

and fall on the corner of 40th Street and Oakland Avenue. In 1921 R. H. Mueller was appointed as the missionary.

In the earlier records of the members we find:

a. In the Sixth Avenue church, besides the names given above, those of Claus and Carson Mumm, Bonsack, Harmony, Hinz, Hohenwald, Kistler, Perlich, Ricker, Rodenbach, Sandmeier, Semmer, Stegner, Strohmeier, Wm. Langley.

b. In the Highland Park Church those of Trick, Dreesen, Bartz, Buschy, Engel, Gerdes, Janssen, Kaibel, Laging, Jacob Mumm, Herman Schmidt, Spriestersbach.

Mound Prairie

The first Evangelical minister to visit this part of the state was Aug. Huelster, in 1860. The next year Wm. Stegner preached here. They came from Winona. At first the people, who were Lutherans, were quite reserved and held back because they did not want to "fall from the faith." Brother Stegner held the first protracted meeting at Wilson in 1861. C. Zicklow and Mrs. Emma Burow were the first-fruits of his efforts. August Radke, who resisted stoutly for some time, was converted in 1863. The Jacob Kroehler, Vetsch, Arnet and Voecks families were converted soon after and became faithful members of the church. Fred Burow, Mr. Arnet and Mr. Eberhart had to serve their country in the war of the rebellion. The religious services were held in the small houses of the people for years.

C. Brill was their next minister and served one year. Then followed W. Giess, '63-'64; John Schmitt, '64-'65; I. Kuter, '65-'68, with M. Zickerick as assistant the last year; '68-'69, F. Emde and L. M. Mueller; '69-'70, G. H. Knebel. Thus far this point was served from Winona. In 1870 it was added to Oak Ridge Circuit and supplied with H. Bunse; '71-'72, J. H. Schmidt; '72-'74, J. Kienholz. In 1874 a Mound Prairie Mission was formed and served from that time by J. Gongoll, '74-'75; G. Yahn, '75-'76; E. H. Baumann, '76-'79; J. L. Stegner, '79-'80; G. Yahn, '80-'82; G. Husser, '82-'84; G. Duebendorf, '84-'87; J. Graeben, '87-'90; G. A. Lippert, '90-'93; F. F. Arndt, '93-'97; K. Meckel, '97-'01; C. C. Engelbart, '01-'05; W. Walter, '05-'07; A. R. Zick, '07-'11; C. G. Roesti, '11-'15; C. C. Stettbacher, '15-'22.

Under Emde's administration 13 souls were converted in one meeting. Two new families by the name of Rosin and Harlos were won for the church. During the pastorate of J. Kienholz the first church was built. It was dedicated Oct. 11, 1874. A par-

sonage was erected at the same time. E. H. Baumann had many revival meetings, and all were crowned with conversions. The Fittings, Pilgers, Dumkes, Enders, Tietz's, Redmans, von Moos's, Witt's and others were early members of this church.

The church was rebuilt in 1900, under the supervision of C. C. Engelbart. Almost every summer a grove meeting was held, some of them resulting in many conversions. Brother Meckel led many souls to Christ while on this field. This society has been weakened by withdrawals. It has a fine park near the church, in which a nice community hall was built in 1921. This field has a few other small appointments which never grew strong enough to build a church. They are *New Hartford* and *Pleasant Hill.*

New Ulm

The beginning of our work in and near New Ulm dates back as far as 1857. Aug. Huelster penetrated from St. Paul through heavy woods and almost impassable roads and trails as far up as the Little Cottonwood River, where he was kindly received by the C. Lauer family, whose address he had. Sister Lauer had been converted and joined our church in Wisconsin. Here he preached the first Evangelical sermon in this region, Sept. 8th, on Matthew 24: 14 to 25 persons. He proceeded six miles farther and preached in the home of father Saale, the father of Mrs. Bangerter. In 1858 the brethren Huelster and John Schmitt served this region, traveling over many counties. Toward the end of October, Huelster preached in New Ulm in the home of a Mr. Meier. The first quarterly meeting was held by Presiding Elder George Escher in Lauer's schoolhouse. It turned out to be a revival meeting, at which there were twelve penitent souls, of whom one, mother Muhs, was soundly converted, being the first-fruit of our church in this region. The next winter a revival was held, at which a number of precious souls were converted and received into the church and a class organized, with John Muhs as its first leader.

In 1859 the Wisconsin Conference created a New Ulm Mission and supplied it with J. H. Schmitt. Brother S. took up new appointments at Courtland, New Auburn, two at Rush River, and one near Hutchinson. The next year Brother Schmitt received C. Brill as his assistant. In the spring of 1861 C. Lahr and Aug. Nierens were appointed to New Ulm. The next spring L. Seder and E. H. Baumann. This was the fateful year of the great Indian massacre. The ministers L. Seder and A. Nierens were ruthlessly murdered by the savages. The people at Court-

land and Cottonwood were warned when the Indians began to massacre, and had time to flee to New Ulm, Mankato and other places of safety. Quite a number of our people helped defend New Ulm while it was besieged by the savages. But they returned to their farms too soon, before the Indians had been entirely cleared out. Small bands of them occasionally scoured the country and killed any whites whom they chanced to meet. Thus Rev. Nierens, Mr. Sonnenburg, Christian Richter and William, his nephew, were shot to death. At Cottonwood C. Lauer was murdered by them. This calamity greatly weakened our work for some time.

In 1863 New Ulm was made part of the Le Sueur Mission, and for five years belonged to it or to the Mankato Mission. During this time it was served by John Schmitt one year, F. Emde 2, and H. E. Linse 2 years. In 1868 New Ulm Mission was again established and continued under that name or that of Courtland until the present day. Part of the time it was a circuit.

The ministers who served it were: 1868-'70, E. J. Hielscher, with J. Manthey as assistant during the last year; '70-'73, J. G. Drehmel; '73-'76, J. G. Simon; '76-'77, J. von Eschen; '77-'79, F. Moede; '79-'82, B. Simon; '82-'85, F. Emde; '85-'88, H. Hensel, with J. Erich as assistant the second year; '88-'91, M. Gagstetter, with A. T. Ehlert as assistant the second, and C. A. Tesch the third year; '91-'94, O. Schultz; '94-'96, G. H. Schaefer; '96-'97, L. Passer; '97-'99, F. W. Lenz; '99-'02, C. W. Wolthausen; '02-'04, J. Kienholz; '04-'05, H. Isker; '05-'06, E. H. Bollenbach; '06-'09, J. H. Muehlhausen; '09-'11, C. G. Roesti; '11-'13, F. W. Tesch; '13-'14, R. C. Mittelstadt; '14-'15, C. F. Mayer; '15-'17, H. F. Schlaak; '17, W. A. Juedes.

The log church at *Cottonwood* was completed and then dedicated on Dec. 19, 1869. The ministers present were I. Kuter, P. E., J. Kienholz, E. J. Hielscher and J. Manthey. In 1870 a log parsonage was built by J. G. Drehmel. The ministers lived in it a number of years, but it never was fully paid, so that in '82 it was sold to John Muhs for the debt resting on it. Later a frame church was built under M. Gagstetter. Some of the leading families were those of J. Muhs, Lipp, Mohr, Lauer, Haman, Hoffman, Letau, Engelbart, Sieg, Simondet, Werner, Becker and, later, Zick. Peter Bott was recommended for the ministry from this class. At this time there is very little left of this society.

The work at *Courtland* was begun in 1859. A number of Evangelical families from Wisconsin settled here. Under the supervision of B. Simon the church was built in 1879. The con-

ference met in it in 1886. For many years this was a strong, thriving society. In '91 a parsonage was bought in the village of Courtland, but because it was 1½ miles from the church, being unhandy for the minister's family to attend divine services, it was sold in 1904. Some of the leading families were those of Richter, Mannweiler, Georgius, Zieske, Beier, Fechner, Groth, Rickart, Fritz, Kohn, Schroeder, Sommer and Heim. There is but little remaining of this church. Probably if the church had been moved into the village in time the work could have been built up.

In 1863 John Schmitt took up a new appointment at *Nicollet*, and soon a class was organized. This point has belonged to various fields during its existence. A number of camp meetings were held; the first in 1869, at which 14 souls were converted. In the course of time a good church was built. Here lived the Priebe, Seide and Albert and Wm. Blank families.

After some of the older Evangelical families moved into *New Ulm* our ministers began to preach there again. The Georgius, Becker, Ferd. and John Kohn families deserve mention in connection with our work. During the pastorate of E. H. Bollenbach a fine new church was built, and the next year, under the supervision of J. H. Muehlhausen, a neat little parsonage. This is a German center where our church ought to make some progress. The church here has not grown much until the last few years, when a number of new members were added.

Sleepy Eye

Apparently J. G. Drehmel was the first minister of our church to preach at or near this place. He held the services in the B. Marti home. Some of the early members were John Zieske, Peter Majewski, Dan. Moll and Conrad Moll and their families. Quite early we find there the Kissner, Prosch, Remus, Hauser, Tosch, Schroeder, Kloppke and Schultz families. The first church was built in 1876 under the direction of J. von Eschen. In 1880 or '81, while B. Simon was pastor, the parsonage was erected. From this time on the ministers lived here and served New Ulm with Sleepy Eye until about 1891. The second church, a beautiful edifice, was built in 1899, under the supervision of R. M. Mueller. While O. Schultz was the pastor, in 1904, the parsonage was much enlarged and improved. The ministers who served this appointment were J. G. Drehmel, J. G. Simon, J. von Eschen, F. Moede, B. Simon, F. Emde, H. Hensel, M. Gagstetter, L. Passer, A. G. Sahr, R. M. Mueller, C. W. Sydow, O. Schultz, G. W. Hielscher,

L. Reep and F. P. Werner. J. Erich, A. T. Ehlert and C. A. Tesch were each assistant pastors one year. M. Gagstetter had a remarkable revival, which lasted six weeks and resulted in over 30 conversions. This greatly benefited the church. Other pastors also had good revival meetings. This point has been a station for some years, and is one of the prosperous fields of the conference.

During the conference session of 1919 the church burned to the ground. The origin of the fire has remained a mystery. The congregation then worshiped in the German Methodist church for the time being, but built a new church in 1921.

Odessa and Bellingham

The history of these two fields is identically the same during the earlier years, and the people are still closely connected. The country south of the village of Odessa was called Yellowbank from the river of the same name. The first Evangelical families in this region were the Moviuses and Frankhausers, who moved here in 1870. A little later the Wm. and Chris. Gloege, the Horman and other families settled here.

A. C. Schmidt, then a young man, was the first Evangelical preacher to visit this neighborhood. He came from Redwood in the spring of 1871. There were only three families, one Catholic and two Evangelical, living here then. On June 23, 1871, the first communion service was held. It was a blessed time. August 22, 1871, Wm. Stegner, presiding elder, visited this appointment, and from here on he and Rev. Schmidt penetrated into Dakota, but found nothing but a boundless prairie. Brother Schmidt served this region for two years. He was succeeded by F. Moede, who remained one year.

In the spring of 1874 the apointments in this region were detached from Redwood and constituted a Bigstone Lake Mission. F. G. Sahr was sent here as pastor and worked with much success for three years. Many Evangelical families moved into this country in those years, and many souls were converted and, therefore, the membership of the church increased rapidly. On April 16, 1876, Brother Sahr organized the first class at Yellowbank. W. R. Movius was elected class leader and Friedrich Frankhauser exhorter. W. C. Stegner was the successor to Brother Sahr and remained one year. He, in turn, was succeeded by G. Britzius, who worked here for two years. In the fall of 1878 steps were taken to build a church, for until then the services had to be held

in private homes or in schoolhouses. The building of the church was forced along, so that it could be dedicated March 30, 1879. This sanctuary soon became too small to hold the ever-growing congregation, and two years later was sold and moved to the Fairfield appointment. A new church was erected at Yellowbank and dedicated June 11, 1881, by Bishop Dubs. The young and zealous C. W. Sydow was pastor here from 1880 to '83.

The first camp meeting was held in July, 1880, in Wm. Gloege's woods. Since then many blessed camp and bush meetings were held, at which many souls were saved.

In the spring of 1883 that memorable conference session was held in the Emanuel's church, at which the conference was divided and a Dakota Conference formed. At this time Bigstone Lake Circuit was divided and an Odessa Circuit formed of the appointments Yellowbank, Fairfield and Mueller's, or Montevideo. E. J. Hielscher was placed in charge of the circuit for three years.

The pastors who served Odessa Circuit since 1886 were: A. Knebel, '86-'89; F. W. Lenz, '89-'92; G. H. Siebold, '92-'95; C. F. Sydow, '95-'98; L. S. Stapf, '98-1900; G. W. Hielscher, 1900-'04; R. C. Mittelstadt, '04-'06; A. Zabel, '06-'11; W. A. Juedes, '11-'14; P. Schott, '14-'17; F. W. Tesch, '17-'22.

Besides the families mentioned above, we might speak of the Bethkes, von Eschens, Kannes, Riens, Koehntopps, Oestreichs, Kochs, Reicherts, Buchholz's, Ulrichs, Sellins, Brauns, Schuetts and others.

Salem

This congregation is of a later origin. Undoubtedly the first families attended the services at Yellowbank, and then, a little later, had preaching in their homes. In 1883 the first church was built about six miles from the Emanuel's church. It was the old Hay Creek church which they bought, dismantled, shipped the lumber by railway, and re-erected at Salem. In 1892-'93 this church burned to the ground. The origin of the fire was never discovered. A new church was built during the following summer under the supervision of G. H. Siebold. This congregation has always belonged to the Odessa Circuit. Some of the leading families were the Kienholz's, Wendlandts, Ulrichs, Kumms, Sahrs, Wittes, von Eschens, Brehmers, Steffens, Warners, etc.

Bellingham

In 1888 Bellingham was a town of seven families, of which three belonged to the Evangelical church. These at first at-

tended the services in the Salem's church, six miles distant. Dec. 1, 1888, F. Voigt and family came here from Waseca. From that time on these few families had preaching services occasionally in the schoolhouse. Aug. Knebel was the first preacher to preach for them. On April 10, 1889, the class was organized with F. Voigt as class leader. A. Sunday-school was also started with F. Dalman as its first superintendent. In 1890 these few members began to build a church. They had the foundation nearly finished when, behold, a hailstorm destroyed the crops, and they had to cease building. The next year the Lord gave them a harvest, and their church was completed. This church proved to be too small in the course of time, and a beautiful, large, new church was built in 1910 under the supervision of A. Zabel. It was dedicated Oct. 23 by Bishop Thos. Bowman. To their great sorrow it burned down on the following 2nd of January. The fire started from an overheated furnace pipe. The people had made great financial sacrifices for this church, and to be deprived of it so soon was, indeed, a hard blow, but, encouraged by their pastor, they soon made plans for a new church. Under the wise direction of Rev. A. Zabel and his successor, W. A. Juedes, the new church was constructed, in some ways an improvement over the one destroyed by fire, and dedicated free of debt by Bishop S. P. Spreng on Sept. 10, 1911.

This appointment was a part of Odessa Circuit until 1895, when a Bellingham Mission was formed by uniting Madison and surrounding country with this place. The pastors who served it were: F. Haueter, '95-'97; A. Geyman, '97-'98; E. H. Bollenbach, '98-'02; F. C. Schmidt, '02-'03; G. J. Krienke, '03-'04. At this time the field was dissolved and B. joined to Odessa again, but in 1914 it was again constituted a separate mission. It was served then by C. A. Tesch, '14-'17; S. B. Goetz, '17-'21; A. H. Utzinger, '21—.

A parsonage was bought in 1915. Our first families were the Freys, Ben Kienholz's, Carl Millers, Fred Dalmans and F. Voigts. Later many moved in from the surrounding congregations and other fields. Leopold Rattke was the efficient Sunday-school superintendent for some years.

Many great revivals have occurred in these congregations. The power of God often manifested itself in the conversion of many souls. Practically every minister could report conversions. F. G. Sahr had several successful meetings. The revival meetings

held by G. H. Siebold were as good as any. Many souls were born into eternal life. It is now a self-sustaining congregation.

Olivia and Danube

The Kromers were the first Evangelical families who settled on the present Olivia Circuit. Fred Kromer and family came from Lakeville, near Farmington, in 1882, and settled on a farm near Bird Island. George and John Kromer settled here very soon after. Wm. Schmitt, a brother of Rev. John Schmitt, settled in Olivia in 1883, and opened up a store. Rev. John Schmitt was the first of our ministers to visit these people and preach for them. He was followed by B. Simon and later by M. Gagstetter. They came from Middle Creek. The services were held in the homes of the people for a number of years. In 1887 Fred Kromer moved to Olivia, and the services were held in his home then most of the time.

In 1886 Mike Felske came from Rush River, and in 1888 Wm. Kunde, Justus Mehlhause, E. Denstedt and Henry Fehr (the two last from Preston), settled on farms in the vicinity of Olivia. H. Zobel came in 1889. This point was served by the ministers from Renville Circuit, to which it belonged until 1894, when an Olivia Mission was formed, consisting of the Olivia and Salem's appointments. The Salem's church was built in 1880, and often the people from O. attended the services there. In Olivia the first church was built in 1889, under the supervision of H. Hensel. The Olivia congregation had grown so much that in 1914, and a nice, large, well-arranged new one built. Rev. Gongoll supervised the building. The old church had been sold to our congregation at Osceola, and while it was being moved there it burned down. The Conference Insurance Society paid the loss. The parsonage was erected in 1895, while Rev. Mittelstadt was the pastor.

The Minnesota Conference was entertained by the Olivia society in 1910 and in 1920. Various conventions have been held there at different times. The pastors who served this field were: R. C. Mittelstadt, '94-'96; K. Meckel, '96-'97; Aug. Huelster, '97-'01; R. M. Mueller, '01-'05; G. Duebendorf, '05-'08; J. Gongoll, '08-'13; S. B. Goetz, '13-'17; O. Brose, '17-'20; H. C. Schmidt, '20-.

This society was increased from time to time by Evangelical families moving here from elsewhere, and by conversions during the revival meetings held by the various pastors.

Salem's Church

This appointment was taken up at an early date from Middle Creek. It was called the "Prairie" appointment. Among the earlier families were the John and Chris. Fischers, Zachows, Kaskes, Mantheys, Reecks, Gruenerts and Schendels. A plain church was built in 1880 under the direction of John Schmitt, which gave way later to a new, substantial one. This was a good country appointment. In 1913 it was transferred from Olivia to Danube Circuit.

Danube

In 1904 a Renville Mission was created of the appointments: Danube, Renville, Osceola, Raymond and Priam. The last two were soon after discontinued. The next year the name was changed to Danube Mission. In 1913 Osceola was taken from Danube and added to Olivia.

The first families at Danube attended the services at Salem for some years. In 1904 a new church was built under the supervision of R. M. Mueller and A. R. Zick. During the term of F. R. Riedel the parsonage was erected in 1910.

Among the earlier families were the Schroeders (several families), Fischers, Sauseles, Stanges, Kruegers, Stelters, Luecks and Lenzs.

The pastors who were privileged to serve Danube were: A. R. Zick, '04-'06; L. Reep, '06-'09; F. R. Riedel, '09-'12; G. H. Siebold, '12-'14; F. F. Arndt, '14-'18; G. H. Schaefer, '18-'22.

Osceola

This appointment is situated eight miles north of Bird Island. It was first served by our ministers from Winthrop (later Buffalo Lake) charge. Some of the original members were the Kirgiss, Kiegbein, Duehn, Hofrock, Kirkpatrick, Lucas and Heinzelman families. They built a good, new church in 1910, which was dedicated by Bishop Thos. Bowman on October 30th free of debt.

The Olivia and Danube Circuits are two strong, self-supporting fields. They furnished the brethren F. W. and A. A. Schendel for the ministry.

Renville

We have a few families living in Renville. Our ministers have thus far preached to them in private houses. The Yunker, Schaefer, Breitkranz and Prodoehl families made up most of the membership.

Paynesville

This is the greatest Evangelical center in the conference. The five churches in this vicinity, all of them strong ones, are known as the Salem's, Zion's, Grove, Paynesville and Eden Valley (or Bush) churches. They are so closely related with each other that their history blends together.

John Baitinger and family were the first Protestants to settle in this region, arriving on April 22, 1857. The first trip they made from St. Cloud on foot, carrying the baby. Later trips they made with an ox-team, swimming them across the rivers. In order to find their way back they peeled poplar poles and stuck them along the trail. They bought the old Baitinger homestead at $1.25 per acre. The first settlers had to go to St. Cloud as a market, but secured considerable game for food.

Christoph Wessel, Christian Rien and Andrew Eickmeier and families settled in 1859, west of the present Zion's church. In the same year, a little later, came Fritz Gedosch, William Moede and Christian Plantikow. The two last mentioned had to go to the war of the Rebellion, where they were killed. On June 3, 1860, arrived Anton Wartenberg and wife and one child, Gottlob Knebel, wife and six adult children, of whom one, August, was already married, Christian F. Schroeder, wife and five children, and Michael Schultz, wife and four children. Later in the same year came August Gedosch and Christian Helmer with their families.

Across the Slough, as the wide flat was then called, M. F. Plantikow and his father-in-law, Samuel Helmer, were the first families to settle. They came from Monroe, Wisconsin, where they had been converted and joined the Evangelical Association. They brought their Christianity along, and were the first converted people in this region. They came in 1861. The following families settled in the Salem's church neighborhood in early years: F. Moede and F. Wendlandt, 1863, David Moede, Christian Wendlandt, Michael Nehring, Gottfried Heitke, Gottlieb Weber, 1864; Wm. Arndt, Samuel Nehring, Michael Gess and Ludwig Koepp, 1865; C. Gehrke and Wm. Zabel, 1866; G. Kruppke, Herman Manz and August Sack, 1867; Christian Frank, 1871; Wm. Miller and John Welk, 1873; Fred Miller, 1864.

The Beginning of Our Work

Until August, 1861, the people lived here without preaching services. At Zion, August Knebel, who had a fairly good Ger-

man education, read some sermons for the people out of an old sermon book. Across the Slough the Plantikows and Helmers held their prayer meetings. Brother Conrad Lahr was the first Evangelical minister to visit this region. I will quote from a letter which Brother Lahr wrote March 20th, 1919: "My home was in Racine, Wisconsin. The annual conference which licensed me met there. My first year in the ministry I spent with Wm. Stegner on Cannon River Mission. During my second year I was transferred to New Ulm Mission. On my way to St. Paul, to the district meeting, I met a German mail-carrier at Henderson, who told me that there was a German settlement at Paynesville, which would like to have a minister. Since I was just on the way to the district meeting I had no appointments for this time, and, therefore, could get away to look up those people. I have always been glad that I did it. The distance was far. When I thought that I must be nearly there I asked a farmer how far it were to Paynesville. He said, 'Eleven miles,' and added, 'You will find no house between here and there. The mail-carrier is the only man who passes this way.' The settlers came by way of St. Paul and the Mississippi River, and I came from the Minnesota River. I saw no more houses on the way, but met plenty of Indians who asked me for tobacco, which I did not have. When I arrived at Baitingers they were all out in the harvest field. A young girl was in the house. I sent her into the field to tell them that a minister had come, and to ask whether they would keep him over night. Mrs. Baitinger soon came, and when she was near enough (which I shall never forget) she raised up both hands and cried aloud: 'Thanks be to God that at last a minister has arrived. Five years have we lived here and waited for a preacher.' Now I forgot about all the hardships I had gone through to find these people and rejoiced. I had time to invite the people for the preaching services for the coming Sunday. I could come only every three weeks to preach. Before I went to conference I organized a class with 32 members. August Knebel was elected class leader.

CONRAD LAHR."

The mail-carrier referred to in Brother Lahr's letter was Henry Schmidt, who now lives near Redwood Falls.

The girl whom Brother L. first met at Baitinger's was Emilie Schroeder, who later became Mrs. F. Gedosch.

Aug. Nierens was the assistant of Brother Lahr and came here a few times to preach for the people.

Brother L. held his first preaching service in the home of J. Baitinger, at which time he also baptized Florentine Wartenberg, Caroline and Kate Baitinger, three of Rien's children, and others.

Even before Brother Lahr came Mrs. Emilie Wartenberg was led to a religious experience by the reading of a good book. During the intervals between the preaching services Brother Friedrich Plantikow held prayer meetings and urged the people to be converted. In the early part of 1862 Lahr and Nierens held a revival meeting at which a number of souls were converted. Mathilda Knebel, later Mrs. Wm. Glenz, was the first-fruit of our work here. Next to her mother Rien, August Knebel and Mrs. Baitinger were converted. This meeting was held in Baitinger's house. So many people assembled there that the floor gave way, and F. Moede was precipitated into the cellar. Brother Lahr was quite careful in his preaching, but Brother Nierens did not spare the sinners. He preached repentance and conversion.

F. Emde was their next minister. He resided at Paynesville, living with Baitingers until a log parsonage was erected. He moved into it in August. The Indian uprising occurred in that month, and Brother Emde and others left their homes and fled from the Indians. During their absence the savages burned the parsonage and the minister's household goods. After the danger was over the pastor returned. He held very successful revival meetings during the winter. John Baitinger was convicted in a meeting held in Plantikow's house.

C. Brill and E. H. Baumann, his assistant, were the next ministers. They had many conversions. During this time, in 1864, the first class in the Salem's congregation was organized. C. Brill also organized the Sunday-school in Salem in the early months of 1865. Michael Nehring was the first superintendent. Aug. Knebel was the first superintendent of the Zion's Sunday-school.

L. von Wald was the next pastor. He also had much success. Then came Jacob von Eschen. He held a very successful meeting in the schoolhouse, at which they had an old Evangelical break-through (durchbruch). Here Minna Plantikow, later Mrs. J. Gongoll, was happily converted.

There were so many good and successful revival meetings held in these two congregations that it would take too much space to refer to all of them. The Salem's church was built in 1871,

under the supervision of E. H. Baumann. In 1897 this church was torn down and a larger, substantial brick-veneered church erected during the pastorate of J. Gongoll.

The Zion church was built in 1874, while C. Brill was the pastor. The present parsonage was built under the direction of John Schmitt.

The Minnesota Conference held its annual sessions in the Salem's church in 1873, 1888, 1904 and 1919; in Zion's church in 1882, 1893, and in Paynesville in 1915, altogether seven times.

Quite a number of successful camp meetings were held at Zion and the Grove, at which many precious scouls were converted. The ministers who served the old Paynesville Circuit and the more recent Zion Circuit were C. Lahr and A. Nierens, '61-'62; F. Emde, '62-'63; C. Brill and E. H. Baumann, '63-'65; L. von Wald, '65-'66; J. von Eschen, '66-'67; A. Knebel, '67-'69; F. Emde, '69-'71, with A. Walch as assistant the first year; E. H. Baumann, '71-'73; C. Brill, '73-'75; J. H. Schmitt, '75-'78; P. Bott, '78-'79; W. Lenz, '79-'82; H. Ohs, '82-'85; C. F. Sydow, '85-'88; H. Isker, '88-'91 (in 1887 the name was changed to Zion); J. Manthey, '91-'94; '94 (part of the year), H. E. Linse; J. Gongoll, '95-'98; J. Graeben, '98-'01; L. Passer, '01-'04; F. W. Tesch, '04-'08; G. H. Schaefer, '08-'10; G. A. Lippert, '10-'11; D. Groenig, '11-'16; R. R. Werner, '16-'22.

C. F. Sydow held a very successful revival in Salem's church, at which many souls were saved, some of them hardened sinners. J. Gongoll also had a good meeting, at which some who held back for years were convicted and saved. One of the greatest revivals was held by L. Passer, assisted by A. Zabel and A. H. Utzinger, at which about 48 souls were saved. The glory of God filled the church.

Zion furnished the church with the following ministers: August and Gustave Knebel, J. M. Baitinger, M. Schoenleben, E. Helmer, A. F. Herzberg, Fred Gedosch and H. C. Freitag. Salem recommended F. Moede, F. R. Plantikow, H. Plantikow, A. Reeck, F. F. Arndt, A. Zabel and Wm. Sack to the ministry. The Paynesville congregation sent out Chester and Herbert Frank into the Lord's vineyard. These appointments furnished eight preachers' wives.

Some of the more familiar names of Zion are Schoenleben, Baitinger, Knebel, Schultz, Gedosch, Voss, Rien, Schroeder, Bork, Herzberg, Holauefer, Wartenberg, Helmer, Freitag, Koenigsreiter.

At Salem we find the names Plantikow, Helmer, Nehring, Moede, Arndt, Heitke, Weber, Zabel, Kruppke, Wendlandt, Gess, Sack, Miller, Gehrke, Baehr, Glenz, Koepp, Unger, Manz, Hein, Theel, Reeck, Lueck, Schulz, Welk.

The Grove

A man by the name of Schmidt owned a farm about five miles north-west of Paynesville, containing a grove, and, being on a small elevation, was visible for quite a distance from the surrounding prairie. On this account the neighborhood and the appointment there were called Schmidt's Grove, and in later years simply "The Grove." John Hempel, Charles Krenzke and Charley Krueger came from Wisconsin and settled here in the early seventies. They were German Baptists, but attended our services in the Salem's church, where some of them were converted. Fred. and Wm. Hein, father and son, came from Germany in 1874. In 1874 C. Brill began to preach in Hein's house. When the schoolhouse was built the services were held in it. C. Krenzke was the first class leader and J. Hempel the first exhorter. In 1878 Wm. Lenz organized the Sunday-school with Wm. Hein as its first superintendent. Besides the above named we had the following families in the early days: Ferd. Zabel, Wm. Nehring, C. F. Wendland, Liebrenz, Gruetzmacher, L. Schwarz, E. Kurth, C. Koehler, Franz Kruppke, Aug. Marquardt, Herm. Marquardt, G. Glenz, Wm. Glenz, H. Koepp, Wm. Hoeft, H. Krueger, Manz, Ruenger, Ernst and Kohlhof. Some of these came here directly from Germany, and after coming under the influence of the Gospel were soon led to repentance and converted. Several young couples came from the Salem's congregation and settled on farms, which were cheap at that time. In 1891 a good, substantial church was built under the supervision of A. C. Schmidt. During the period of the "Church Trouble" considerable hard feeling was engendered, and a number of families for a time were outside the pale of the church. Later these feelings subsided and all worshiped together again. As time went on the older families moved to Paynesville and left their children on the farms, so that there is still a strong congregation at this point.

For a number of years blessed camp meetings were held in Wendland's grove. In 1892 the power of God manifested itself wonderfully in the conversion of many souls. In 1903 thirty-seven souls were saved. In 1904 there were 30 tents on the ground.

Paynesville

August Zabel and wife were the first Evangelical members to live in the then small village of Paynesville. Some years later A. Manz, John Holz and John Baitinger moved in. A Sunday-school was organized. A. Manz and Aug. Zabel were its first superintendents. In 1889 a Paynesville Mission was formed of the appointments Paynesville, Grove and Eden Valley. A. C. Schmidt was appointed the first pastor of the new mission, and served it three years. A new parsonage was built during the first year of his pastorate. In 1892 he was succeeded by H. Bunse, who also remained three years. Under his supervision the first church in Paynesville was built in 1892. During this time Young People's Alliances were organized. Lydia Bunse was its first president in Paynesville, and H. Gruetzmacher in the Grove.

This congregation had a marvelous growth, for when the older families were ready to retire from their farms they moved into Paynesville fom the four surrounding country congegations. Some of the young men entered into business, and thus the number of members increased, so that the church became too small. In 1913 a large, modern, new church was built. The work was begun under the pastorate of C. Nauman and carried to completion under C. F. Kachel. This church is the largest in Paynesville, and is able to hold the people in case of a rally of the five congregations or for other festive occasions.

The pastors who served the new Paynesville charge, besides the two mentioned above, were: G. H. Siebold, '95-'98; M. Gagstetter, '98-'01; G. Duebendorf, '01-'05; S. B. Goetz, '05-'07; C. W. Sydow, '07-'12; C. Nauman, '12-'13; C. F. Kachel, '13-'18; P. A. Lang, '18—.

During the time that H. Plantikow was presiding elder on Minneapolis District a tract of five acres of timber land along the Crow River, in the village limits, was bought for camp meeting purposes. Since then successful revival meetings have been held on it each summer. Great crowds assemble there to enjoy the feast of good things. Each year one of the bishops or some other prominent man is secured as chief speaker. In 1921 a tract of land containing about 14 acres was purchased on the shore of Lake Koronis for camp meeting and assembly purposes.

Eden Valley

This church is situated about five miles east of Paynesville. In local circles it is called "The Busch." At first it belonged to

Paynesville, but later it was added to South Haven Mission. Here a church was built during the administration of Brother Siebold in 1895. Among the families who have belonged to our church are those of A. and F. Baumann, Fischer, Liesman, Schmidt, Schmiginski, Schulz, Ruhn, Wegner, Abitz, Otto and Herzberg.

During the last few years this point has belonged to Zion Circuit.

Jubilee

In the late fall of 1911 the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of our work in this region was celebrated in the Salem's church. A fine souvenir program was gotten up and printed. The exercises began on Monday evening, Oct. 30th, when F. F. Arndt preached. On Tuesday morning the district meeting began and lasted till Thursday afternoon. On Friday afternoon a Sunday-school Institute was held. On Tuesday evening A. Reeck preached. On Wednesday evening J. Gongoll and H. Isker spoke. On Thursday evening F. R. Plantikow and H. Plantikow spoke about the former ministers of the old Paynesville Circuit. On Friday forenoon C. F. Sydow preached and in the evening J. M. Baitinger and A. Zabel spoke. On Saturday forenoon F. W. Tesch preached, and in the evening several former pastors gave reminiscences. Sunday was the great day. The church was packed full of eager listeners. J. Gongoll spoke to the Sunday-school, and H. Plantikow preached the jubilee sermon. The afternoon was given over to the old people. They testified of the goodness of God and the joys of salvation. F. Moede, a veteran of the society, gave an address; J. Graeben read an original poem. In the evening another sermon was preached. The Salem's brass band heightened the festivities with their splendid music. Some people came early in the morning and remained in the church all day. This celebration will linger long in the memories of those who enjoyed it. Besides a spiritual and literary feast it was a time of reunion, for many of the former pastors, and those who had gone into the ministry from these churches, had come to renew acquaintances and take part in the celebration. A. H. Utzinger had charge of the program.

PIPESTONE

This mission has consisted for some time of the Pipestone, Salem's, Cazenovia and Steinke appointments. For some years these points, or part of them, were served by the ministers of Luverne. In 1888 a Pipestone Mission was created of the above

named appointments and those in and near Marshall. In 1889 these latter were detached and a Marshall Mission formed.

G. H. Siebold, L. S. Stapf and others came up from Luverne and preached for these people. The ministers who served the Pipestone Mission were: S. B. Goetz and G. A. Lippert, '88-'89; F. R. Wolter, '89-'91; A. Zabel, '91-'93; E. H. Bollenbach, '93-'95; A. T. Ehlert, '95-'96; D. Groenig, '96-'98; F. H. Draeger, '98-'01; C. F. Sydow, '01-'05; G. J. Krienke, '05-'07; Wm. Walter, '07-'08; K. Meckel, '08-'13; H. Georgius, '13-'16; C. C. Engelbart, '16-'19; P. J. Smith, '19-'22.

Salem

Among the first families here to belong to our church were the Wm. Passers, Wm. Langes, Wm. Eickmeiers, F. Dahlmeiers, H. Willbergs, Henry Thies's and John Natzkes. The first Sunday-school superintendent was Wm. Lange; class leader, Wm. Passer; exhorter, Wm. Eickmeier. The congregation was incorporated Jan. 15, 1886. The first church was built in 1887, under the supervision of S. B. Goetz. The second church was erected in 1898 under the direction of F. H. Draeger. There have glorious revival meetings been held at this point, which resulted in the conversion of many precious souls. Those held by L. S. Stapf, S. B. Goetz, G. H. Siebold, H. H. Georgius and E. H. Bollenbach were among the best.

Pipestone

Bart Wiener was one of our first active members at this place. Besides him we had the George Rickemann, W. G. Schauer, Schroeder, Bates and other families at the beginning. Since then others have moved into Pipestone, while others moved out. This congregation has never been large. Jacob Wiener and John Natzke were the leading members for some years. A practical church was built in 1898 under the supervision of Brother Draeger. A comfortable parsonage was erected in 1901, during the pastorate of C. F. Sydow.

Cazenovia

About seven miles from Pipestone is the little town of Cazenovia, where our preachers have labored for some years. We have a number of families there. The services, as a rule, have been held on Sunday afternoons in a hall.

Steinkes

The two Steinke families, father and son, lived 20 miles from Pipestone, in South Dakota. The services were held in their

home. A few other families attended, but the work never prospered. After the old people and the young man sold out and moved away the appointment was discontinued.

Preston

Preston may be considered the mother of several Evangelical fields in south-eastern Minnesota. In 1857 L. von Wald and G. von Eschen penetrated from Winona to Preston, taking it up as a preaching point. It was through the influence of a sister Schweizer that they were induced to come, and they, and subsequent ministers, found lodging in her hospitable home. They found several German families who had come from Canada. John Hopp, father and mother Diebold, mother M. Anstett and mother Moebs were already members of our church. The first Evangelical sermon was preached in the Preston schoolhouse in August, 1857. The first revival meeting was held by Rev. von Wald between Christmas and New Year, in which a number of persons came under conviction, but were not converted. On Feb. 12, 1858, another revival meeting was begun, at which Brother von Wald was assisted by G. von Eschen. During this effort they had victory and 12 persons were gloriously converted. This meeting was held in the home of Chris. Rappe. A class was now organized with John Hopp as leader and C. Brill as exhorter. Those who joined the church at this time were: C. Brill and wife, C. Rappe and wife, mother Hopp, mother Schweizer, George Rappe and wife, and Bro. Twi and wife.

A Sunday-school was organized in 1858, being one of the first of our church in the state. During the year 1859 the first church was built. It was dedicated in November by L. Buehler, presiding elder. His text was 1 Kings 18: 29, 30. It was the *second* Evangelical church in the state. Both ministers lived in Preston during the year '58-'59. In the spring of 1859 G. von Eschen and J. Rahskopf were stationed here and remained one year. From 1860-'62 J. Hammeter and L. Seder traveled and preached on this vast field. From now on the following ministers served it: '62-'64, Wm. Stegner; '64-'66, H. Kleinsorge and E. Weiss; '66-'68, D. N. Long and C. Werner; '68-'70, L. von Wald; '70-'73, G. Yahn; '73-'76, J. G. Drehmel; '76-'79, Aug. Knebel; '79-'80, G. Yahn; '80-'83; J. L. Stegner; '83-'86, C. W. Sydow; '86-'89, W. Lenz; '89-'92, E. J. Hielscher; '92-'95, F. C. Schmidt; '95-'97, S. B. Goetz; '97-'99, A. Zabel; '99-1901, J. J. Boelter; '01-'05, A. Geyman; '05-'10, P. A. Lang; '10-'13, H. C. Schmidt; 1913-'17, H. A.

Seder; '17-'22, C. F. Sydow. This charge was certainly supplied with a list of the best ministers in the conference.

Soon after the first church was built a parsonage was erected. Both the church and the parsonage were rebuilt in later years. Some of the prominent families connected with this church from the beginning were the Rappis, Riehls, Anstetts, Zimmermanns, Reubers, Longs, Denstetts, Hopps, Diebolds, Moeb's, Wintz's, Hahns, Kleimenhagens, Links and others.

This congregation suffered much from the church trouble, Dowieism, Christian Science and the language question. During the last 29 years 371 conversions were reported from Preston and Cherry Grove charges combined, and yet the two had only 157 members last spring. There is cause for reflection somewhere.

Cherry Grove

This was called Ubrigs appointment during the early years. Here lived the Ubrig, Dutzenrath, Baier and Riehl families. The Preston minister preached here many years. A number of camp meetings were held, which were successful. While F. C. Schmidt was the pastor in 1892, a new church was built. In 1899 A. Zabel saw to it that a parsonage was erected. In the spring of 1899 it was detached from Preston and called Cherry Grove charge, but was later joined to Preston again for a few years. The pastors who served Cherry Grove were A. Zabel, H. W. Link, M. Schoenleben, G. J. Krienke, P. A. Lang, J. D. Moede, F. R. Wolter, L. Steeley, A. H. Nauman and L. Strothman.

Our ministers preached near *Le Roy* many years. The appointment was known as Slough Creek. The John Hopp and R. Schutz families were the principal members. This point was discontinued about 20 years ago.

About eight miles south of Preston the Evangelical ministers preached a number of years. Preston entertained the conference in 1908 and at another time the State Young People's Alliance Convention. For many years successful camp meetings were held.

Racine

It used to be called Middlebranch in early years, after the middle branch of the Root River, which flows near by. A family by the name of McQuillan, which had come from Pennsylvania, lived one mile east of the little village of Hamilton. Here our ministers began to preach in 1859 or earlier. The families Sandte, Peters, Ellenbergs and Jake McQuillan constituted the nucleus of our work in 1859.

In 1862 C. Werner, Peter and Adam Utzinger and J. Burkhardt settled three miles west of Hamilton. Wm. Stegner advised them to locate there. The services were held in the log houses for several years. More families settled there and joined the church. Then a schoolhouse was built and the services held in it. In 1876 the people thought they needed a church and built one. M. Engel, who built twelve Evangelical churches, also built that. The brethren von Wald, Yahn, von Eschen and others had great revival meetings, in which many people were soundly converted. People came from other appointments to be converted. A number of camp meetings were held in Adam Utzinger's grove, to which the people came from far and near. A new railroad was built through the neighborhood, and the little town of Racine sprung up a mile from the Evangelical church. In 1897, under the supervision of M. Schoenleben, the church and parsonage were moved into Racine. The Eppard, Gahringer, Zimmermann, Heuslin, Krause, Eichhorn and Schroeder families were early members.

In the early years this society belonged to Preston charge, but later it was united with Kasson a few years. In 1875 a Hamilton Circuit was formed of the appointments Middlebranch, Ellenbergs, Links, Pleasant Grove, High Forest and Rockdell. That was enough to keep a man busy. The Ellenberg society was later called *Sumner Center*. Here a new church was erected in 1894. The High Forest and Rockdell appointments did not grow and were discontinued after serving them a number of years. The Racine congregation entertained the conference in 1880, and again in 1895. They also entertained the district meeting several times. The Sumner Center society entertained the Woman's Missionary State Convention in 1918.

The following ministers served this congregation: John Hammeter and L. Seder, 1860-'62; W. Stegner, '62-'64; H. Kleinsorge and E. Weiss, '64-'66; D. N. Long and C. Werner, '66-'67; D. N. Long, '67-'68; L. von Wald, '68-'70; G. Yahn, '70-'72; J. L. Stegner, '72-'73; E. J. Hielscher, '73-'75; F. G. Sahr was assistant to Hielscher six months, and G. von Eschen several months in '73-'74; A. Walch, 1875-'77; G. von Eschen, '77-'80; L. Passer, '80-'83; J. Gongoll, '83-'86; J. Graeben, '86-'87; G. Duebendorf, '87-'90; H. Ohs, '90-'91; F. Moede, '91-'92; S. B. Goetz, '92-'95; A. Zabel, '95-'97; M. Schoenleben, '97-1901; F. H. Draeger, '01-'04; F. P. Werner, '04-'09; G. J. Krienke, '09-'10; C. B. Frank, '10-'14; H. E. Mueller, '14-'17; A. H. Naumann '17-'18; R. L. Wintz, '18-'19; A. J. Smith, '19-'20; F. W. Hauser, part of '20.

The Racine church was built under the supervision of A. Walch, and the parsonage of G. Duebendorf, and the Sumner Center church of S. B. Goetz. Out of the Racine church A. H. Utzinger and Earl A. Utzinger entered the ministry.

Redwood

This field has an interesting hisstory. The first Evangelical families moved into this region in 1860 and '61, coming mostly from Wisconsin, and settling on the rich, virgin farms. They came with the intention of founding permanent homes, and enjoying life with their families. Three different societies of our church were organized. The Evangelical preachers followed them and ministered to their spiritual wants. Undoubtedly John Schmitt and C. Brill were the first ones to preach for those sturdy Germans, hungering for the Word of God. What simple but spiritual services they had! They looked into the future with good hopes. But, alas! their hopes were soon shattered. As already related in this book, a bloody Indian massacre annihilated the three classes. Many of the settlers were brutally killed, some were taken prisoner, and others escaped with their lives.

As far as is known now, the following Evangelicals lost their lives: Their beloved pastor Louis Seder, W. Inenfeld, John Sieg, wife and four children, Michael Zitzlaff and wife, John Zitzlaff, Caroline Meier and three children, Ernst Hanff, wife and four children, Uris Andernack, Mrs. Thiele and one child, John Lettau and one child, Gottlieb Mannweiler, Wm. Schmidt and wife, father Boelter and wife, Mrs. Michael Boelter and three children, John Boelter, Eusebius Rief, wife and one child, Gottfried Busse, Frederick Busse, wife and three children, John Roesler, wife and two children, Frederick Roesler, John Kochendorfer, wife and four children, Paul Kitzmann, wife and four children, Frederick Krueger and two children, Gottlieb Zabel, Rosina Heining and three children, Emil Grundmann, wife and three children. That made a total of 74 couls. This is a dark page in the history of the Minnesota Conference.

Of our members who escaped, none came back again to live on their land, excepting Mr. Thiele. In 1865 Henry Schmidt, then a young man, bought the farm on which he afterward lived for many years. The only member of our church which he found in that region then was Mr. Thiele. In 1866 the Schumachers, Lindemanns, Dreiers, Timms and others came from near Le Sueur Center and settled on the vacant farms.

Rev. J. G. Simon visited these people once in the summer of 1866 and preached for them in Schumacher's house. J. H. Schmitt also came through on a trip and preached for them. After that no minister preached for them until in the spring of 1868, when E. J. Hielscher came up from New Ulm and served them regularly. The next year J. Manthey assisted Brother Hielscher. The work prospered under their labors. In 1870 J. G. Drehmel and Aug. Schmidt looked after their spiritual welfare. In 1871 a Redwood Mission was formed, including Middlecreek and adjoining appointments and those at Lamberton. This field was served by the following ministers since 1871: A. C. Schmidt, '71-'73; F. Moede, '73-'74; C. W. Sydow, '74-'75; L. Passer, '75-'77 (with E. F. Movius as assistant the second year): (it was called Beaver Falls Mission from 1877-'79); F. Emde, '77-'79; (from '79-'94 it was called Renville Circuit); J. H. Schmitt, '79-'82; B. Simon, '82-'85; M. Gagstetter, '85-'88; H. Hensel, '88-'91; A. G. Sahr, '91-'94; (after this it was called Redwood Circuit); O. Schultz, '94-'96; J. Kienholz, '96-'98; A. Reeck, '98-'02; E. H. Bollenbach, '02-'05; C. F. Sydow, '05-'10; G. J. Krienke, '10-'12; G. W. Hielscher, '12-'14; J. D. Moede, '14-'17; G. A. Lippert, '17-'21; F. A. Frase, '21-.

Until the year 1879 the services and Sunday-school were held in private homes or in the schoolhouse on Dreier's land. In 1879 the first church was built under the supervision of J. H. Schmitt. This served the society as a place of worship until 1911, when a fine, modern, new church replaced the old. J. G. Krienke was the pastor at this time. The Minnesota Conference met in the new church in 1916.

About the year 1870 a parsonage was built, but it was so cold in the winter that the minister's family nearly froze. In 1884 B. Simon built the present parsonage, which was quite a good residence for that time.

During the pastorate of M. Gagstetter, in 1886, the church in North Redwood was erected.

North Redwood

When the farmers of Middle Creek wanted to retire they moved into the little village of North Redwood. Thus, in the course of years, a congregation of mostly old people was assembled here. The original stock of Middle Creek finally made up the membership at North Redwood. In both churches the German language was used exclusively for many years. Nearly 20 years ago Brother Bollenbach preached in the English language, occa-

sionally in N. R. During the course of the years more English was introduced, until, finally, the German was entirely dropped.

In early years successful camp meetings were held. Many great revival meetings, which resulted in numerous conversions, were conducted. About every minister had some success, but the revivals held by the brethren B. Simon, M. Gagstetter, A. G. Sahr, E. H. Bollenbach, C. F. Sydow and J. D. Moede resulted in an unusual number of conversions. Other societies were recruited by members which moved from this field. Much fruit from the labors of our ministers here will be found in heaven.

Rochester

The Mayo Clinic has made Rochester world famous. It is a thriving city now.

How and when the Evangelical ministers began the work in Rochester could not be discovered. It is probable that L. von Wald and G. von Eschen, as early as 1858, entered it to do work for their Master. In 1868 a Rochester Mission was formed, including Rochester, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Corner, Mantorville and Austin. G. H. Knebel was sent as its first pastor. He was succeeded by E. H. Baumann. In 1872, under the pastorate of J. G. Simon, the first church was built. About in 1873, during the time of E. J. Hielscher, a parsonage was bought. The lot on which these buildings stood was later purchased by the Rochester School District, and both church and parsonage moved to a new location. The church was remodeled, the old parsonage sold, and a good, modern one erected. A. R. Zick superintended the moving and the work on the church in 1911; F. R. Riedel looked after the building of the parsonage in 1915.

Some of the early families of our church in R. were: H. Huny, W. Spornitz, Andrew Engel, Matt. Engel, Catharine Engel, Aug. Menge. Huny was class leader and Spornitz exhorter. The society was incorporated on March 2, 1885. The German language was used exclusively until recent years. Now the English prevails entirely. The work was almost at a standstill for many years, but recently has experienced a healthy growth, and gives promise of a bright future. Fred Streifert, Wm. Krueger, C. Schultz, Wm. Haling and G. E. Keller are names which should be mentioned in connection with our work.

The ministers who served this church are: G. H. Knebel, 1868-'69; E. H. Baumann, '69-'70; L. von Wald, '70-'71; J. G.

Simon, '71-'73; E. J. Hielscher, '73-'75; C. W. Sydow, '75-'78; C. Oertli, '78-'81; M. Knopf, '81-'83; J. L. Stegner, '83-'85; W. Lenz, '85-'86; J. Gongoll, '86-'89; F. Moede, '89-'92; E. J. Hielscher again, '92-'95; A. Reeck, '95-'98; H. Hensel, '98-1902; C. W. Wolthausen, '02-'05; A. G. Sahr, '05-'06; S. R. Iwig, '06-'10; C. C. Engelbart, '10-'11; A. R. Zick, '11-'15; F. R. Riedel, '15-'17; J. G. Heidinger, '17-'21; F. W. Schendel, '21-.

Brother A. G. Sahr died in the beginning of his second year in Rochester.

Pleasant Grove

The history of this place is so closely interwoven with that of Rochester, that it naturally follows here. About in 1856 several German families settled in this then wild country, among whom were those of D. Frankhauser, George Engel, M. Schneider, J. Kiefer and John V. Engel. L. von Wald and G. von Eschen, coming from Wisconsin, penetrated as far as this neighborhood as early as 1857, and preached in the homes of Frankhauser and George Engel alternately. In 1858 a "great" meeting was held, in which J. G. Escher, presiding elder, L. von Wald, G. von Eschen and A. Huelster took part. On Sunday evening such a manifestation of divine power came over the congregation that all, with two exceptions, fell upon their knees and cried to God for mercy. There were quite a number of conversions. A little later the families of Aug. Menge, H. Woitte, H. Kuehl, Bleifuss and Siewert were added to the church. The families Link, Erchinger and Henke formed another appointment a few miles distant. In the later sixties a log church was erected on a hill on J. Kiefer's land. This congregation entertained the conference in 1870. A number of camp meetings were held, alternating in the groves of J. Kiefer and J. Engel, at which many precious souls were saved. In 1884, under the supervision of J. Gongoll, the old log church gave way to a nice new frame sanctuary.

Here L. von Wald found his helpmate in the person of Catharine Engel in 1858. This was, therefore, the first society in Minnesota to furnish a minister's wife. The Link appointment furnished one several years later to G. H. Knebel in the person of Miss Erchinger. Only a few families are now left at Pleasant Grove. They are served by the minister from Rochester. The *Link* appointment has been given up long ago. How some of our country appointments have suffered during the last 25 years! May they be resurrected again in the course of time!

Greenwood Prairie

This fertile prairie is situated about twelve miles north of Rochester. Its history justly belongs to Rochester charge. E. J. Hielscher began to preach here in 1878. A family by the name of Wm. Krueger came to us from the German Methodists and gave our minister an opportunity to preach in their home. Fred Liebenow also opened his home for preaching services. Brother Hielscher held a revival the following winter and had some converts, among them the Henry Schroeder family. The people of the neighborhood loved to hear father Hielscher preach, and the word went to their hearts. This angered the Lutheran pastor, and he called Bro. H. all kinds of names, and accused him of false teachings, and exhorted his members to remain away from his services and not to fall from the faith. Bro. H. stood his ground and finally the controversy grew into a challenge for a public debate as to the orthodoxy of each one's doctrines. Arrangements were made for the debate. There were to be three ministers on each side. On our side were Hielscher, Aug. Knebel and Strohmeier. (It appears that Strohmeier could not come, which left only two.) Our brethren suggested that the debate be opened and closed with prayer. Our man offered the opening prayer. Then the debate began, each side being allotted so much time. There were many people present who paid the closest attention. Our ministers soon had the other side confused, and easily won out. The Lutherans became so angry that they would not pray at the close. Many of the Lutheran members were convinced that their doctrine was false in some points, and came over to our church and were converted. As a result, a good-sized congregation was gathered and a large church built. Some of the first and more prominent families of our church here were those of Aug. Dumke, Wm. Krueger, Ludwig Dewitz, Fred Liebenow, Wm. Schultz, Henry Schroeder, Aug. Krinke, Fred Rekow and Fred Teske. Some died and others moved away in the course of years, so that we have only a small society left there now. During recent years it has been united with Hammond Mission. There are still good hopes for the future.

ST. CHARLES

In close relation to St. Charles were the appointments Oak Ridge and Quincy. At first the field was called Oak Ridge, but in 1879 it was changed to St. Charles. Part of the time it was a mission, but for many years it held the title of circuit. For a few years it constituted two charges.

Oak Ridge was the earliest of these appointments. It really consisted of two or more preaching places; one was near Rollingstone, another in Trout Valley, and a third on the Ridge. A. Tarnutzer preached for the people at Rollingstone in the fall of 1856. Here our work in Minnesota was begun. The families Blanchard, Wasem and Braun were living here. Other families moved in, among them Jacob Britzius. The religious services were for some years held in the homes of the people, or in their primitive schoolhouses. A number of great revival meetings were held, at which many souls were converted. Camp meetings were also held with much success. In 1868, under the supervision of F. Emde, the Oak Ridge church was built. It is standing yet. In it many souls were born into the kingdom of God. When our work was at its height, many families got the "moving fever" and moved west. That weakened our work, for most of them sold out to Catholics or Lutherans, whom we could not win for Christ or our church. Now there is scarcely anything left of our work.

Our work at *Quincy* began in the sixties. In 1866 a class of eight members was organized. George Britzius (later a minister) was elected the first class leader and Carl Brown exhorter. Through many conversions this society soon increased until it became a large congregation. During the pastorate of J. Kienholz, in 1873, a creditable new church was built. The same fate befell this society, as did that at Oak Ridge. Nearly all the families moved away, and others came in who did not care for church. There is practically nothing of our people left here.

At an early date our ministers began to preach at St. Charles. The Zickericks, Schmidts, Zimmermanns, Sydows and others were of the first members. A strong society was gathered, and a church bought from the Congregationalists in 1875, while L. von Wald was pastor. This congregation has also dwindled down to a few families.

Adam Brown and his parents appear to have been the firstfruits of our work at Quincy. They went to a meeting at Rollingstone, where they were converted. George Britzius, then a young man, had gone to Wisconsin to work and was there converted. He came back June 13, 1866, and on July 5th took his sister and Andrew Becker, and Andrew Brown and his sister, to a camp meeting at Pleasant Grove. There Becker and the two girls were converted. As a happy group they returned home.

During the winter of '67-'68 a great revival swept over all of these appointments. D. N. Long of Preston and C. Werner

of Middlebranch were the ministers. I. Kuter, the Presiding Elder, assisted at some at these meetings. The services were held in six different places. When one revival meeting closd another was begun at another place. The first was held in Michael Zickerick's home, near St. Charles; the second in father F. Zimmermann's home north of St. Charles; the third near La Crescent in Jacob Kroehler's home; the fourth in Jacob Wasem's home, near Rollingstone; the fifth in the schoolhouse, near father Browns, at Quincy, and the sixth in Jacob Britzius's home in Trout Valley. Theobold and Jacob Britzius, Carl Brown, John and Jacob Wasem, Gustave Blanchard and father Schmidt were converted in those meetings. For over ten years these revival fires burned brightly. The ministers Emde, John Schmitt, H. Bunse and J. Kienholz all had good success. Brother K. had 169 conversions in three years. Those converts alone were enough to form a large congregation.

The Quincy church entertained the annual conference twice; in 1874 and in '79. At both sessions Bishop Escher presided. The older ministers who were present say that there were great manifestations of God's power at those sessions.

This field produced a number of ministers. That was a sign of spiritual life. A dead church cannot send out men, called of God, to preach the Gospel. The following were recommended to the ministry by the various classes of this charge: Joseph Zimmermann, August C. Schmidt, Fred C. Schmidt, Gustave H. Schmidt, George Britzius, Michael Zickerick, William Fritz, C. William Sydow, Christian F. Sydow, Fred Schild. Wm. Blanchard may also be credited to it.

It is said that there were often great manifestations of the power of God in the revival meetings. The ministers preached with great power and effect. Often the whole congregation would fall upon their knees and faces and cry to God for his blessings. The heavens would open up and bow down, and cloudbursts of blessing come upon them. Sinners would melt into tears and contrite hearts; would press victoriously into the divine life, and God's children leap and shout for joy. Those were good, old times! May they come again!

The following ministers served the above appointments: From Winona: L. von Wald and G. von Eschen, '57-'59; A. Huelster, '60-'61; from Preston, G. von Eschen and J. Rahskopf, '59-'60; from Winona again: W. Stegner, '61-'62; C. Brill, '62-'63; W. Giess, '63-'64; J. H. Schmitt, '64-'65; I Kuter and M. Zickerick,

'65-'68; from Preston, D. N. Long and C. Werner, '66-68; from Winona, F. Emde and L. M. Mueller, '68-'69; Oak Ridge Circuit: 1869-'71, H. Bunse; '71-'72, J. H. Schmitt; '72-'75, J. Kienholz; '75-'78, L. von Wald, with W. Fritz as assistant during the last year; '78-'80, J. Zimmermann (it was now called St. Charles Circuit; '80-'82, F. Moede; '82-'84, G. Yahn; '84-'87, G. Husser; '87-'90, H. Ohs, with J. M. Baitinger as assistant the last year; '90-'93, A. Huelster, with A. F. Herzberg as assistant the first year; '93-'95, J. Graeben; '95-'99, F. C. Schmidt; '99-'00, F. W. Lenz; 1900-'02, G. H. Schaefer; '02-'06, A. Reeck; '06-'07, G. A. Lippert; '07-'11, C. C. Engelbart; '11-'13, W. J. Vetter; '13-'15, H. F. Schlaak; '15-'17, S. R. Iwig; '17-'20, W. Walter; '20-, A. R. Zick.

St. Cloud and Rices

The history of these two fields goes together. They include St. Cloud, Gethsemane, or Maine Prairie, Graham, Elmdale, Royalton, Hay Creek and Buckman.

About six miles west of St. Cloud lived a few German families, Christian, John and Adam Stenger, and Herzberg and possibly a few others. In the fall of 1861 John Baitinger of the town of Zion, 25 miles distant, piloted Brother C. Lahr to these people. He preached for them and established this as a regular preaching point. The services were held in Stenger's house. Lahr and A. Nierens, his assistant, changed off in preaching. Of course these Evangelical ministers preached that the people must be converted. This was something new to them, and they would not believe it, and claimed the ministers had a false Bible, but they got their old Bible, which they had brought from Germany, to see if there were anything in it about conversion. To their astonishment they found that their own Bible taught conversion very plainly. Now they gave up their opposition and began to seek the forgiveness of their sins and regeneration. A class was organized and the preaching continued for quite a number of years. Finally most of the people moved into St. Cloud, and the Stenger appointment was dropped. It had been served from Paynesville until a St. Cloud Mission was established, which was in 1873. This mission, as at first constituted, consisted of four appointments: "St. Cloud, Stengers, Blocks and Bretzkes." H. Hensel was appointed missionary and remained two years. He had 33 conversions, which was well done for that field. In 1875 August Schmidt was stationed here and stayed three years. During his time a parsonage was bought in St. Cloud in the year 1876. Dur-

ing his last year he had 46 conversions in the different revival meetings which he held. He had taken up some new appointments north and north-west of St. Cloud. These were detached from St. Cloud Mission in 1878 and called Two River Mission.

The pastors who served St. Cloud Mission from now on were: J. Gongoll, '78-'80; F. C. Schmidt, '80-'83; G. J. Schmidt, '83-'86. with H. A. Seder as his assistant the last two years; A. C. Schmidt, '86-'89, with H. A. Seder assistant the first year; J. Gongoll, '89-'91; H. Bunse and E. H. Bollenbach, '91-'92, also serving South Haven Mission; J. Kienholz, '92-'95; E. J. Hielscher, '95-'96; F. G. Sahr, '96-1900; A. H. Utzinger, 1900-'02; G. Britzius, '02-'04; L. Passer, '04-'08; G. A. Lippert, '08-'10; F. F. Arndt, '10-'14; W. A. Juedes, '14-'17; W. J. Vetter, '17-'20; A. T. Nelson, '20-.

During A. C. Schmidt's second term the church in St. Cloud was built. During the time of F. G. Sahr the parsonage and barn caught fire and the latter was destroyed totally and the former partially. A new barn was built and the house much improved and enlarged. The names of some of the early families of our church in St. Cloud were: Ferd. Zabel, C. Stenger, Sr., C. Stenger, Jr., Wm. Holz, Wm. Lueck, F. Laustedt, G. Krentz, W. Preuss, J. Hartfiel, F. Wendt, C. Helmer, C. Nehring and Herman Bretzke. Others moved in later.

Gethsemane

Our ministers began early to preach near Maine Prairie, where our principal families were the Blocks and Pramanns. For some years there was a flourishing congregation. They had spiritual revival meetings, with a number of conversions. A church was built in 1880, during the pastorate of F. C. Schmidt. This point was served by the pastors from St. Cloud until 1911, when it was joined to South Haven Mission.

This society suffered much from the "church trouble." Over one-half of the members seceded and united with the United Evangelical Church. The families who remained loyal to our church were Wm. Schultz, Hoemke, Jucknath, mother Pramann and two or three others. Fred Warner, a son of Rev. C. Warner, a pioneer preacher, moved in later and became a good support of the church. A successful protracted meeting in March, 1902 revived this society greatly. Quite a number of souls were saved and joined the church.

Two Rivers Mission

It was formed in 1878 of the Rich Prairie, Two Rivers, River Schoolhouse and Swan Lake appointments, together with several

north of the Swan River. W. C. Stegner, under the supervision of J. Gongoll of St. Cloud, served it two years. In 1880 Peter Mumm came on the field and remained one year. In 1881 the mission was discontinued and the appointments added to St. Cloud. In 1887 these places were again detached from St. Cloud and constituted the Royalton Mission, including the appointments Royalton, Graham, Elmdale and Hay Creek. H. A. Seder served it one year. W. J. Vetter was the pastor for the next three years. From 91-'94 H. Plantikow shepherded this flock. Then came C. A. Tesch and remained two years. R. C. Mittelstadt had charge of the field from '96-1900. In 1900 the field was christened Rice Mission. A. J. Iwan preached for them from 1900-'02. Then came W. Walter and stayed three years; J. D. Moede was the next pastor, staying until 1907. He was succeeded by F. R. Riedel for two years. From 1909 on it has been served by the pastor from St. Cloud.

During H. A. Seder's pastorate a parsonage was built at Royalton in 1887. Later it was sold and one constructed at Graham, near the church, in 1898, under the supervision of R. C. Mittelstadt. During Brother Vetter's time a small church was built at Elmdale. While H. Plantikow had charge of the field a house of God was erected at Graham in 1892.

At *Elmdale* there was quite a society in the later eighties and the nineties, but now there is scarcely anything left. We had there the Schlack, Mocros, Wittke, Hanfler, John Arnold and Christianson families, while many others attended the services. About six miles north of here there was another thriving class called the *Hay Creek* appointment.

In *Royalton* we joined in with the Methodists to build a church which, however, was deeded to them. By and by they got the whole church and our members. Here we had the Farrel, George Muncey, Foster and Jackson families.

At *Graham* it did not take long to build up a good society, for members of our church moved in from other places. We mention here the Schultz, Trabant, Busse, Dunkel, Gaumnitz, Hintz, Sauer, Schuman, Mueller, Scheel, Thomas, Marti and Kuehn families. Here is where a terrible cyclone on April 14, 1886, killed a number of our members and Rev. Gustave Schmitt and his wife. This is still a good society.

Six miles north of Graham we had the *Buckman* appointment. We had only a few families here, among them the Wuenchers. It has been discontinued for some years. The other ap-

pointments north-west and north of these points of the early years need not be mentioned here, for they were served only for a few years and then abandoned.

The victims of the cyclone at Graham were: Henrietta Schulz, aged 45, mother in the home struck by the cyclone, and mother of the young bride; Karl Schulz, age 22; Louise Schulz, age 16; Henrietta Gaumnitz, age 55, leaving husband and son wounded; Henry Freitag, 25, married about six hours before his death; Christine Trabant, 46, leaving husband and eleven children; Mary Trabant, 8, daughter of the above; John Sauer, 28, leaving a brother severely hurt; Christina Vogt, 56, leaving husband and 4 children, of whom two were hurt. Two of the injured died later, making eleven deaths.

Most of the wounded were taken to Royalton, where a temporary hospital was provided, and were tenderly cared for by physicians and friends.

Eight of the killed were buried in the cemetery near Rice Station. Revs. Strohmeier and Kienholz officiated at the funeral. Nothing so appalling has been witnessed in our conference since the Indian massacre in 1862. "Be ye therefore ready, for ye know not the day, nor the hour, when the Son of man cometh."

St. Paul

During the early fifties of the nineteenth century several Evangelical families moved into the vicinity of St. Paul, which was then only a small city. The origin of our work here is quite fully described in the beginning of this history, and need not be repeated. The ministers who served the original St. Paul church, later called Pine Street, were: A. Tarnutzer, '56-'59 (A. Huelster was his assistant in 1857); John Hammeter, '59-'60; O. Ragatz, '60-'62; L. von Wald, '62-'64; H. E. Linse, '64-'66; A. Strohmeier, '66-'68; C. Brill, '68-'70; supplied by C. Brill, '70-'72; Aug. Knebel, '72-'74; H. Bunse, '74-'75; E. J. Hielscher, '75-'78; H. Bunse, '78-'80; Aug. Huelster, '80-'83; C. Brill, '83-'85; W. Oehler, '85-'88; J. L. Stegner, '88-'91; L. S. Stapf, '91-'94; H. Plantikow, '94-'96; J. G. Simon, '96-'98; J. M. Baitinger, '98-'02; B. R. Wiener, '02-'06; C. F. Kachel, '06-'08; M. Schoenleben, '08-'10; S. B. Goetz, '10-'13; P. A. Lang, '13-'17; C. B. Frank, '17-'21; J. G. Heidinger, '21—.

E. J. Hielscher reported 73 conversions during his term of service.

In 1886, under the supervision of W. Oehler, a splendid new church was built, which was, at that time, the most beautiful and expensive church in the conference. A parsonage was erected at the same time in the rear of the church. Both together cost $17,700. A debt of $2000 remained, which was later increased and had to be liquidated by the conference. This church may have been well located at the beginning, but in the course of years this part of the city was settled by a class of foreigners whom we could not reach. For some years it was the conviction of the conference that a new location should be secured. Finally, in 1916, the Great Northern Railway Company, which built an immense freight depot across the street from the church, bought it for the sum of $32,500. Thereupon the congregation looked about for a new site, and, after considering all the phases of the work, decided on building on Dayton's Bluff.

This society entertained the conference in 1871, 1884 and 1905, and the district meetings at various times. Its pulpit has been occupied by the various bishops and other leading men of the church. Several of the retired ministers have been its members.

Among the leading members from the beginning we find the names of Jacob Hauk, Fred Arzt, Gehin, Dieter, Feldhausen, Kochendorfer, Palm, Zollman, Schuelke, Geik, Andrew Schoch, Horman, Kellerman, G. Schmidt, Philip Arzt, Althen, Lemke.

St. Paul, Winifred Street

Several Evangelical families had settled in the West Side of St. Paul and attended the services, either in the Pine Street, or the Goodrich Avenue church. Among them were the Linse, Zimmermann, Schumann, Erchinger, Aszman and Kachel families. Aug. Huelster, of the Pine Street church, preached for them in Linse's home for some time. G. Duebendorf organized a class. C. F. Kachel was elected as the first class leader and Sunday-school superintendent. About in March, 1883 the church society was incorporated. The West St. Paul society had 30 members to begin with in 1883. In the spring of that year the conference established a West St. Paul Circuit, on which it stationed G. Duebendorf as its first pastor. A lot was secured on Winifred Street and a church erected on it in the summer of 1883. The next spring F. R. Plantikow was sent here and in that summer a parsonage was built beside the church. During Brother P.'s three-year pastorate 27 souls were converted and the membership increased to 103. G. Husser was the next minister. He remained three years, during

which time he had 75 conversions and increased the membership to 174. Thus it will be seen that this work grew very rapidly. In 1888 it was changed to a station. Many families moved to this field from nearby country appointments, especially from Dakota Circuit. G. Spaeth followed in 1890. At the close of his three-year term the station numbered 186 members. Then followed H. E. Linse, '93-'94; R. M. Mueller, '94-'98; J. Manthey, '98-1900; H. Plantikow, 1900-'04; G. Spaeth, '04-'08; G. Duebendorf, '08-'10; C. A. Tesch, '10-'13; E. H. Bollenbach, '13-'14; G. W. Hielscher, '14-'17; H. E. Mueller, '17-.

R. M. Mueller conducted several successful revival meetings, resulting in 34 conversions. During H. Plantikow's pastorate the church was enlarged and modernized at a cost of over $4500. The work suffered considerably here after the collapse of the St. Paul boom during the nineties.

South St. Paul

Andrew Tarnutzer began to preach here in 1856. Here the first Evangelical class in the state was organized. This society was known as the Salem's church. It was served at first by the Pine Street pastors, and later, for years, by those of the Winifred Street church. Part of the time it was served as a separate mission by pastors who were partially retired. In 1874, under the supervision of H. Bunse, a church was erected.

In the early days we find here the Gagstetter, Laschinger, Zehnder, Glaessing, Binder, Schmidt, Kachel, Goldberg, Kochendorfer and Schaefer families. See letter on inside cover.

Goodrich Avenue

In 1871 the conference established a mission in the western part of the city, which was later called Goodrich Avenue Mission. It was served two years by C. Brill, one year by C. W. Sydow, two years by C. R. Koch, one year, or part of a year, by J. Gongoll, several years by the pastors of the Pine Street church; J. G. Haller, '81-'82; E. H. Baumann, '82-'83. In 1883 Rev. Baumann was transferred to Minneapolis to fill out the unexpired year of Wm. Stegner, deceased. A church and parsonage were built here, in 1871, but the mission did not thrive and, therefore, it was discontinued in 1884 and the property sold for $2500.00 in 1885.

East Seventeenth Street

The conference established a mission here and had it served several years. Wm. Knopp served it one year and J. L. Stegner one year. Then the work was discontinued.

Calvary Church

The conference established a mission in the Midway District in 1912. The next year E. D. Groenig was stationed on it and remained two years. In 1913 a chapel was built under the supervision of H. Plantikow, presiding elder, and the preacher in charge. This mission was served by H. S. Frank from 1915-1919. During part of this time the deaconess, Miss Rose Fecker, assisted in the work. This mission has had a good, healthy growth. Considerable improvements have been made on the chapel. Rev. G. Spaeth has been the efficient superintendent of the Sunday-school since its organization. F. W. Hauser served this mission one and one-half years and was succeeded by C. E. Berger. A large addition to the church was built in 1922.

Sauk Centre and Alexandria

It must have been in the sixties when Evangelical ministers went from Paynesville to Sauk Centre in quest of German families, to whom they might bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To whom belongs the honor of first visiting that region, we have not ascertained, but some of the first were F. Emde, L. von Wald, Aug. Knebel. At the conference session of 1870 a Sauk Centre Mission was formed, consisting of the appointments about Sauk Centre and further west and north-west. These included a large territory. It was the frontier mission of our conference at that time. One appointment was at *Ashley Creek,* six miles west of Sauk Centre. Some of the single ministers made their home here with a family by the name of Kurell. A second preaching point was at *Round Prairie.* Here we mention the Frankhauser and Spriestersbach families. Near *Long Prairie* our ministers preached at stated intervals. Another place was *English Grove.* Here the parsonage was located for a time. Here lived the Klatt, Buchheim, Dummert, Burow, Kethur and other families. About six miles from English Grove was an appointment, at which several families from East Prairie had settled, namely, the Bosshardts, Bauernfeinds and others. Most of the people moved away or proved unfaithful to the church, and so one point after another was discontinued. English Grove held out the longest and was dropped at about the year 1901. The Sauk Centre Mission was served by A. Walch one year; H. Hensel 2; Wm. Lenz 3 years, with L. Passer as assistant one year, and G. Britzius another year. G. Britzius had charge of it a second year; P. Bott one year. In

1878 this mission was divided up, and part of the appointments added to the Alexandria and the rest to the Two Rivers Mission.

In 1876 the *Alexandria* Mission was formed, consisting of appointments in and around Alexandria, and including Morris. W. C. Stegner was assigned as its first pastor. The appointments constituting this mission had been served for some years as a part of Sauk Centre charge.

In *Alexandria* the Zimmermann and Merki families were among the first to join our church. Later came the Griebenow, Klatt, Tannehill, Engel and other families. This in later years became the main society of the field. During the pastorate of C. F. Sydow, in 1889, a good parsonage was built. In 1893, under the supervision of A. T. Ehlert, a church was bought of the Congregationalists and moved on the parsonage lot.

At *Leaf Valley* there existed a good class for some years. This was 22 miles from Alexandria. Here we had the John and George Mumm, the Aug., Michael and Ludwig Krueger and Marquardt families. M. Krueger was a typical German "Michel." Later the Leuzinger and Ruppelius families moved to *Brandon*, and our ministers preached in the village schoolhouse for nearly 20 years, but we could never gain enough new members to form a class.

This mission was served by W. C. Stegner, '76-'77; to be supplied, '77-'78; E. F. Movius, '78-'80; J. Gongoll, '80-'83; W. Walter, '83-'85; W. C. Stegner, '85-'86; F. Moede, '86-'87; C. W. Wolthausen, '87-'88; F. Moede, '88-'89; C. F. Sydow, '89-'92; A. T. Ehlert, '92-'95; A. H. Utzinger, '95-'96; C. A. Tesch, '96-1900; H. A. Seder, 1900-'04; E. Helmer, '04-'08; H. F. Schlaak, '08-'09. On account of a shortage of ministers no man could be stationed on this field after this. Rev. Burgstahler supplied it in the summer of '09, and M. O. Siewert of '10. After this the only preaching in Alexandria of our church was done by the presiding elder a few times during the year. Our people there were anxious to have the work kept up, but at last yielded to the inevitable. In 1912 the mission was discontinued and a few years later the church property sold.

Birchdale

About the year 1900 several Evangelical families from the vicinity of East Prairie settled about nine miles north-east of Sauk Centre. They were the Bosshardt, Stegner, Bauernfeind, Martin, Luhde, Hawer and Krueger families. Our ministers from Alexandria served them. A neat country church was built in

1902, under the supervision of H. A. Seder. After Alexandria was left without a minister this point was added to St. Cloud Mission. During the last years it was not served.

By this it will be seen that a large territory was lost to our conference on account of a lack of men. We may never be able to recover it.

South Haven

Undoubtedly the work of our church in this region was started in the Bretzke neighborhood, near the present town of Kimball. The first preachers came from Paynesville and preached in father Bretzke's home. The German families in the neighborhood were invited to the meetings and some of them were converted, among them being Mr. Mielke, a son-in-law of father Bretzke. The work never developed enough to build a church, so the services were mostly held in the Bretzke, and, later, in the Mielke homes. During the church trouble, in the nineties, this appointment seceded to the United Evangelical Church.

Among the early families converted at Bretzke's were also the Kerstens, Marquardts and Millers. They lived about six miles distant, near the present village of South Haven. In order to spread the work our early ministers began to preach in the homes of these families. Here also a number of families were converted and a fair-sized class gathered. In 1899, under the supervision of F. G. Sahr, a neat little church was built about three-fourths of a mile from South Haven. A number of good revival meetings increased the number of converts and strengthened the congregation. To the above named families and their descendants were added the Kiehns, Schmidts, and others. In 1916 the church was moved into the village of South Haven and improved at a cost of over $900. Rev. Wm. Walter was the pastor at this time. Soon after he secured the help of Brother H. C. Freitag as evangelist in a revival effort, which resulted in a goodly number of conversions and accessions. The German language was now discontinued and the English used exclusively in the church services.

One of the best members and the leader among them was Gottlieb Kersten, who died while yet in his best years. This was a hard stroke for this church. Of the early members here it may be said that they were thoroughly converted, lived a consistent Christian life, and were loyal to the Evangelical Association. The Marquardts came here in 1869 and were converted under the labors of H. Hensel.

Another appointment was taken up in the Steinberg neighborhood, about five miles south of Kimball. Frederick Steinberg was the leading man here for a number of years. He died at middle age and was much missed by the little flock. Among others we mention the Hoefts, Braatz's, Hinz's, Ueckers as belonging to this class. The services were mostly held in the schoolhouse. In recent years these people atended the services in South Haven.

Th ministers who served these appointments were: H. Hensel, 1873-'75; A. C. Schmidt, '75-'78; J. Gongoll, '78-'80; F. C. Schmidt, '80-'83; G. H. Schmidt, '83-'86; A. C. Schmidt, '86-'89; F. Emde, '89-'91; E. H. Bollenbach, under supervision of H. Bunse, '91-'92; J. Kienholz, '92-'93; A. C. Schmidt, '93-'94; Thos. Koch, '94-'95; in the year '95-'96 the field became vacant and was served in part by E. J. Hielscher from St. Cloud, and in part by G. H. Siebold from Paynesville; F. G. Sahr, '96-1900; 1900-'02, A. H. Utzinger; '02-'04, G. Britzius; '04-'08, F. Moede; '08-'12, F. J. Knuth; '12-'17, W. Walter; '17-'20, A. T. Nelson; '20-'21, O. Brose; '21-, Edw. Miller.

Wadena and Deer Creek

The appointments Wadena, Deer Creek, Hewitt, Eagle Bend, Otter Tail, Oak Valley, Marquardts, Evergreen, Height of Land, and Dent appropriately come under this heading.

About the year 1880 J. J. Meyer and wife came from Illinois, where they were members of our church, and located in Wadena, engaging in the merchandise business. Brother J. Gongoll came over from Alexandria, a distance of 50 miles, to visit them, and took up Wadena as a preaching point. In 1881 the conference created a Brainerd and Wadena Mission and supplied it with Robert Johnsen, who lived in the latter place. He served the field two years without success. In 1882 the name was changed to Wadena Mission. J. Kienholz was stationed here in 1883 and remained three years. During his alministration, in 1884, a church was built in the southern outskirts of the town, and the next year a parsonage. Now that location is the best part of the city. After this Brother L. Passer had charge of the work for three years. He had as assistants the first year F. R. Wolter, and the second W. A. Juedes. In 1888 Brainerd was detached and Wadena supplied with only one man. At this time our ministers preached besides in Wadena, in Hewitt, which was then called Wing River, Deer Creek, Otter Tail and at Bunse's, and beyond Frazee. G. H. Siebold took charge of the field in 1889. His assistants were C. A.

Tesch the first year, and A. T. Ehlert the next two. Brother S. had great success, leading many souls to Christ. He was well liked. During his time the work at Deer Creek and Otter Tail was so much strengthened that both societies began to build churches in the fall of 1891. Several new appointments also were started. A. H. Utzinger became the pastor of this field in 1892 and served it three years. The mission was now 90 miles long. The first year he had J. J. Boelter as his assistant, the second Thos. Koch, and the third Wm. Georgius. The last broke down in health and had to quit the work in the fall. During the first months of Utzinger's term the churches at Deer Creek and Otter Tail were finished and both dedicated on Sunday, July 10th, by Bishop Horn. It was a great day for these congregations. At the close of the conference year '94-'95 the mission had nine appointments, five Sunday-schools, three churches and 178 members. Blessed revival meetings were held at nearly all points. In the spring of 1895 the mission was divided into Wadena and Deer Creek Missions. The former was made up of the appointments Wadena, Oak Valley, Hewitt and Eagle Bend, and the latter of Deer Creek, Otter Tail, Marquardts, Bohnes and Hahns.

The ministers who served Wadena after this were: G. W. Hielscher, '95-'96; J. M. Baitinger, '96-'98; J. H. Muelhausen, '98-'02; G. G. Schmid, '02-'06; E. H. Bollenbach, '06-'11; P. R. Mueller, '11-'13; K. Meckel, '13-'18; A. A. Schendel, '18-'21; Milton Schaefer, '21-'22.

Deer Creek Mission, first called Otter Tail, was served by D. Groenig, '95-'96; G. Hoff, '96-'97; F. W. Siebel, '97-'98; A. J. Iwan, '98-1900; E. Helmer, 1900-'04; F. R. Riedel, '04-'07; C. Nauman, '07-'12; H. S. Frank, 1912, who remained only during the summer vacation; G. P. Herbold, '13-'14; F. A. Mundt, '14-'16; G. F. Hack, '16-'17. In the spring of 1917 these two missions were consolidated and called Wadena Circuit.

A parsonage was built in Deer Creek during the term of A. J. Iwan. The Deer Creek church was moved from the country into the village during the pastorate of Rev. Nauman in about 1908. The Otter Tail church was moved several miles into the village of Otter Tail in 1915, under the supervision of F. A. Mundt.

Wadena

Some of the more prominent families of our church here from the beginning were those of J. J. Meyer, C., F. and J. Rauscher, Dumann, Kurtz, Henslin, Unverferth, Boelter and Marquardt.

Brother J. J. Meyer and his estimable wife deserve special mention. He was the Sunday-school superintendent and class leader for many years. Financially he did exceptionally well. For special undertakings in the congregation he usually paid one-half of the expenses, and he often donated large sums for missions and the benevolences of the church. He was a member of the General Boards of the Evangelical Association for years, and was twice elected delegate to the General Conference. Although they were wealthy, yet both, he and his wife, lived a truly humble Christian life. They truly set a noble example to other rich people. They were always kind to and a great help to the minister and his family. Sister Meyer died in 1914 and her good works do follow her.

Deer Creek

Some of the first families of our church were L. Propp, Ed. Sommerfeld, J. Zabel, C. Link and, later, Aug. Krueger, Geo. Link, Glenz, Mumm, Bartz, Koehler, Beier and Marquardt. The first religious services were held in private houses. The brethren Siebold and Nauman did exceptionally well at this point.

Hewitt

Father Zosel, of Wing River, as it was called in early days, left the German M. E. church for some reason, and then came to Wadena and asked Brother Kienholz to come down and preach for them. This he did and organized a class there, consisting of the families of C. Zosel and his children, and Fred Fischer. We never had more than seven or eight families here. It was discontinued later.

Otter Tail

Here our first families were those of Joseph Boehl, Henry, William and Gustave Truhn, Wm. and Reuben Kemp, H. Brandt, Wm. Riemann, and H. Eichhorst, a single man. Nearly all of these families moved away, and the church was moved into the village of Otter Tail.

About seven miles from our O. T. church we preached in the Marquardt neighborhood. During the writer's administration quite an awakening occurred, but the Free Methodists came in at that time and caused a disturbance and a division, so neither we nor they got much of a congregation. Our ministers soon quit this appointment.

Louis Bunse, a brother of Rev. H. Bunse, lived 15 miles north of Perham. Our preachers took that region up as a preaching place and continued it for years. Later two Bohne families were our best supporters. About five miles from here a few German-Russian families had settled, by the name of Hahn. For a number of years this point was kept up and then dropped.

North of Frazee our ministers preached to several German families a few years, and then turned the services into the English language, and received a lot of members and organized two classes. These places also had to be abandoned after several years of sacrifice and hard work. They were in the *"Height of Land"* region.

At Dent a few German families joined our church, and it was taken up as a preaching point. Brother Nauman served it quite regularly, and had also gathered an English class of intelligent people.

At Eagle Bend we had a family named Nass. The services were held in their home or else in the schoolhouse. After continuing a number of years this point was also dropped.

Oak Valley

This place is eight miles from Wadena. Brother Siebold preached there a number of times. A. H. Utzinger took it up as a regular appointment. He preached in the Jesse schoolhouse. In the winter of 1894-'95 he held an extended revival meeeting, at which a number of families were won for Christ and the church. During the administration of Brother Muehlhausen a church was erected here.

It is much to be regretted that all of our congregations, some of which were so flourishing at one time, should have either diminished and become weak, or become entirely extinct. The scarcity of ministers may be mentioned as one of the causes. The worldliness of many of the people is another.

WASECA

Closely related to our work in Waseca are the appointments Wilton, Iosca, Meriden, Morristown and Borns.

The work of our church in this region was begun at Wilton. M. Arndt and F. and Martin Buschow arrived here on July 7, 1862, from Wisconsin, where they had become members of our church. They soon requested the services of an Evangelical min-

ister, and E. H. Baumann at once visited them and preached for them. He was the pastor of New Ulm Mission. From 1863-'65 J. Rasskopf served this point, coming from Blue Earth. The next year C. Brill was the preacher. On Feb. 5, 1866, the first business meeting was held, with C. Brill as chairman, and G. Groenig as secretary. The principal business transacted was the passing of a resolution to build a new church, to be known as Emanuel's church. G. Groenig, M. Arndt and M. Buschow were the first trustees. The church was erected during the summmer of 1866 and dedicated by Bishop Escher. During this same summer a blessed camp meeting was held on the farm of Brother Sommerfeld. During the year '66-'67 J. Kienholz was the assistant of C. Brill on Blue Earth Circuit. J. Kienholz presided at the second annual business meeting on March 21, 1867, and Julius Papke was secretary. The first quarterly conference was held July 14, 1866, in the home of Brother Sommerfeld. L. von Wald presided in the absence of J. Hammeter, P. E. Others present were C. Brill, J. Kienholz, F. Buschow, M. Arndt and M. Buschow. A Wilton Mission was created in 1866, which was in 1869 named Waseca Circuit. More families moved in and were won for the church, so that a good-sized congregation was established. Later most of the members moved to Waseca and other places, and others died, so that now there are only a few left, and they prefer to worship in Waseca.

Bishop Escher preached in the Court House in *Waseca*, about in May or June, 1866. By this we see that our ministers began early to preach in this place. The first business meeting was held in the schoolhouse on Oct. 31, 1870. E. H. Baumann acted as chairman and J. Kienholz as secretary. The folllowing were elected as the first trustees: Carl Baumann, C. Fiehmer, Aug. Zimmer, Wm. Tansir and Ferd. Buschow. At a business meeting, held on March 9, 1875, it was resolved to build a church. The following members voted for it: A. Zimmer, C. Koetke, H. Soltau, W. Dans, F. Fehner and M. Knopf. The church was built during that summer and served as a place of worship for many years. This society grew from year to year, so that in the year 1902 a new and much larger church was built under the supervision of H. Isker. This church cost $5270, and is a credit to the congregation. In 1871 a district house was procured for the use of the presiding elder. Several of them lived here. It was later sold for a few hundred dollars. A parsonage for the minister was built in 1868, while G. Yahn was the pastor.

Our ministers also took up an appointment at *Meriden* and built up a fair-sized class. The first business meeting was held July 1, 1877, in the schoolhouse. Brother Yahn was the chairman. They decided to buy a lot and build a church on it. H. Palas, F. Wolter and H. Wolter were elected as a building committee. The next evening they met again and elected C. Schuelke, L. Peter, H. Palas, C. Peter and A. Keting as trustees. A new church was built in 1882 under W. Oehler's supervision. This society was strong enough in 1898 to entertain the conference. It has been greatly weakened by deaths and removals, so that there are only a few families left.

West of Waseca, at *Iosca,* our ministers started to preach quite early. Some families had come from Wisconsin as members of our church and others were converted here. By 1878 this society became strong enough to incorporate. A business meeting was held Nov. 26th. G. Yahn presided and M. Gagstetter was secretary. L. Wolter, Aug. Kaiser, M. Mueller, Aug. Wendlandt and Wm. Roeske were elected trustees. A sanctuary was built in 1880, under the supervision of J. G. Simon.

At *Blooming Grove* (now Morristown) the first families of our church were the Oehlers and Habeins. The services were held in the log house of Brother von Wald. On March 23, 1874, a business meeting was held to take steps to build a church. The building committee elected consisted of Tobias Oehler, Wm. Habein and G. Oehler. The first trustees were Ludwig Beissner, Wm. Habein, Gottfried Oehler, Gottlob Oehler and Charles Brand. The church was erected in 1875, while J. Zimmermann was the pastor. This congregation prospered so that in 1878 it was able to royally entertain the annual conference. It belonged to Wascea charge a number of years, and then it was transferred to Faribault. Later a Morristown Mission was formed. The church out in the country was sold and one bought in the village. There have been several good revivals in recent years, yet the society is not strong now. During the church trouble a schism occurred which much weakened our work.

About 15 miles south-west of Waseca a few families by the name of *Born* settled. This has always been known as *Born's* class. We have had a few faithful families here for quite a number of years. The society has never grown strong enough to build a church.

The Wilton Mission was served by J. Kienholz, '66-'67; L. M. Mueller, '67-'68; G. Yahn, '68-'69; in 1869 it was changed into

Waseca Circuit and was served in '69-'70 by G. Yahn; '70-'72, J. Kienholz; '72-'75, M. Knopf; '75-'78, J. Zimmermann; '78-'79, G. Yahn again; '79-'82, J. G. Simon; '82-'85, W. Oehler; '85-'88, B. Simon; '88-'89, J. H. Schmitt; Brother S. died during the year, and J. G. Drehmel supplied the field the remaining months; '89-'92, A. Knebel; during his last year here Brother K. passed away; J. J. Boelter filled the vacancy; '92-'94, F. Moede; '94-'96, L. Passer; '96-1900, C. W. Sydow; '00-'04, H. Isker; '04-'08, J. Gongoll; '08-'11, C. W. Wolthausen; '11-'12, A. Reeck; Brother Reeck did not quite finish his first year when the Lord called him home; '12-'13, C. W. Sydow; Brother S. worked here only a few months when he broke down in health and moved to Fairmont, where he died in the fall; C. F. Mayer filled the vacancy and remained until May, 1914; '14-'17, G. H. Siebeld; '17-'20, H. A. Seder; '20-, C. Nauman. G. Britzius was assistant pastor one year and M. Gagstetter one year in the later seventies.

In 1904 a Morristown Mission was formed. It usually contained the apointments Morristown, Meriden and Iosca. At times it was constituted otherwise. The ministers who served it were: A. Zabel, '04-'06; A. R. Zick, '06-'07; G. J. Krienke, '07-'09; H. C. Schmidt, '09-'10; '10-'11, to be supplied; '11-'13, E. F. Brand; '13-'15, F. W. Schendel; '15-'16, federated; '16-'19, A. J. Schmidt. For a few years there was a Meriden Mission, which was supplied with L. Passer and H. Hensel.

No other charge has lost as many ministers by death during active service as Waseca.

All of the above appointments had great revivals at one time or another. Many precious souls were saved. Especially during the pastorates of A. Knebel and C. W. Sydow were there important awakenings.

Waseca entertained the annual conference in 1903 and 1913. It has also had the district meetings in its church at various times.

Father John Wolf, who lived quite a number of years at Waseca, deserves special mention. He was very much interested in church matters, and was well read in our church literature. He was a member of the general boards of our church for a number of years. A number of communications from his pen appeared in the *Christliche Botschafter*. The Miller, Gross, Schauer, Krause, Brandt and Roessler families were good and faithful members of the church. There were many good people on this charge, and their descendants are the hope of the church for the future.

Wells and Rice Lake

The history of these two fields is so closely interwoven that it fitly comes under one heading.

About in 1856 several German families settled on farms at Rice Lake, south of Wells. For four years they had no religious services. In the fall of 1860 J. H. Schmitt came over from Blue Earth to find this settlement and see if he could preach for the people. The first sermon he preached in grandfather Mueller's home to the families of H. Mueller, Sr., H. Mueller, Jr., H. Burmester and Wm. Heitzig. They were glad to have the privilege to hear the Word of God preached again. They wanted to use the song books which they had brought from Germany, but they differed so much from those which the minister used that they bought new ones of him. None of these people had ever attended any services of our church, excepting mother Mueller, who had been in Evangelical meetings near Chicago. There the German Lutherans called our members Methodists. When she heard Bro. Schmitt preach she told the rest: "He preaches just like the Methodists." They hardly knew what to think, but their suspicions were allayed by the fact that he had Evangelical song books. But, as Brother S. continued to preach, they became more alarmed about his doctrine. It was especially mother Mueller and her son-in-law, H. Burmester, who were concerned about the pure old Lutheran faith. They began to oppose Brother Schmitt, and to agitate against him among their neighbors. But God was with his servant and wonderfully helped him. In the spring of 1861 Mrs. Maria Mueller went to Blue Earth on a visit, where she was converted in that memorable revival meeting. She returned home with the glad message of her salvation. This had its effect on the others. In the fall of that year Brother S. held a protracted meeting in father Mueller's house, at which Mother Mueller, Mrs. H. Burmester and Wm. Heitzig were soundly converted. Six persons were still seeking. At the close of this meeting the following were received as members of the church: H. Mueller, Sr., Helena Mueller, H. Mueller, Jr., Maria Mueller, F. G. Mueller, H. Burmester, Elizabeth Burmester, Wm. Heitzig, Elizabeth Heitzig, Wm. Walter and Carl Jahnke. H. Burmester was elected class leader, although he was not yet converted, and W. Walter as exhorter.

In the spring of 1862 Brother Schmitt bade farewell to these people, and L. Seder and E. H. Baumann became their pastors. The former preached for them only a few times, when death overtook him. These first ministers preached for the people on a

week-day, for they had so many appointments that they could not serve them all on Sundays. Joseph Rahskopf served this point from '63-'65, and C. Brill, '65-'67. In 1867 Wm. Giess organized a Sunday-school.

In 1873 *Rice Lake* was detached from Blue Earth Circuit, and, with other appointments, formed into a Wells Circuit. The ministers up to this time had come from Blue Earth. In 1880, under the supervision of A. Knebel, the first church was built. In it many precious souls found their Saviour. The congregation prospered and grew, so that in 1907, during the pastorate of H. Hensel, it became necessary to enlarge the church. Many successful camp meetings have been held at this point. Great throngs of people gathered at them, especially on Sundays, when the roads and weather were favorable.

Some of the names connected with our work here are those of Passer, Woitte, Currier, Hageman, Lorenz, Bless, Matz, Steckelberg and those mentioned above.

In 1865 several families came from Wisconsin and settled in the town of *Dunbar*. C. Brill soon found them and received permission to preach to them. He induced them to attend a camp meeting at Blue Earth in the summer of 1866, at which they were all converted. A class was then organized of five members, consisting of John Miller, Friedericke Miller, Fred Miller, J. Frederick and Rika Frederick. Father John Miller became a very active and respected member of our church, and did more than any other individual to build up the Dunbar congregation. His children and grandchildren remained in the neighborhood, founded homes of their own, and remained loyal to our church.

In 1874 a church was built near Minnesota Lake, on the land of F. Voight, who donated two acres of ground, but later it was moved nearer the center of the congregation. A number of successful camp meetings were held on Wm. Miller's farm. A parsonage was built near the church in 1876, under the supervision of J. L. Stegner, but was sold some years later.

The church in *Wells* was organized in 1887. Our ministers had preached there before. The following members constituted the class: John Schroeder, Anna Schroeder, G. Oehler, Mrs. Oehler, Frank Schroeder and wife, George and Mrs. Kirschner, H. Gohde and wife, and Mrs. Gaines. This society built a church in 1892. A parsonage was also provided for the minister. The church was greatly strengthened by the addition of members who moved in from the country. It entertained the annual conference in 1900.

The change of language caused the defection of a number of families, which was much to be regretted. J. H. Burmester was an efficient official of the church and delegate to the annual and General Conferences.

The *Brush Creek* society was started in early years. It was called the "Windmill" appointment, on account of a windmill, owned by a Mr. Ehlert, the only one in that whole country, which was visible for quite a distance. Here we mention the families of Herman and Charles Sahr, Pankonin, Redman, Weber, Ehlert, Korman, Garlow, Jahnke, Buschow. This society built a church many years ago.

The ministers serving Wells Circuit, comprising the above four apointments, were: '73-'76, Jacob von Eschen; '76-'79, J. L. Stegner; '79-'81, A. Knebel; '81-'84, J. G. Drehmel; '84-'85, F. Moede; '85-'86, J. H. Schmitt; '86-'89, G. H. Siebold; '89-'92, C. W. Sydow; '92-'94, G. Britzius; '94-'98, M. Gagstetter; '98-'02, J. G. Simon. In 1902 the conference divided it into two circuits called Wells and Rice Lake respectively. Up to this time the following served as assistant pastors: G. A. Lippert part of a year, A. Zabel 1½ years, J. J. Boelter 1, S. R. Iwig 3, F. W. Siebel 1, J. H. Muehlhausen 2, C. G. Roesti 2, G. J. Krienke 1 year.

The Wells Circuit after 1902 was served by C. F. Kachel, '02-'06; A. Reeck, '06-'11; E. H. Bollenbach, '11-'13; F. A. Frase, '13-'15; O. Brose, '15-'17; R. C. Mittelstadt, '17-.

The Rice Lake Circuit had the following pastors: G. A. Lippert, '02-'06; H. Hensel, '06-'10; C. F. Sydow, '10-'15; C. G. Roesti, '15-'18; H. C. Freitag, '18-'22.

No one had greater success on the old Wells Circuit than Bro. Siebold, for he had 159 conversions in three years. Those were great meetings! People were converted in the church, in the homes, by day and by night. The effects of those efforts were felt for many years. H. Hensel and C. F. Sydow had great revivals at Rice Lake. In 1901-'02, previous to the division of Wells Circuit, a good, new parsonage was built at Rice Lake.

In 1920 a new modern parsonage was built in Wells at a cost of $6000, under the supervision of R. C. Mittelstadt.

Winona

Winona is called the "Gate City" of Minnesota. It is a city of 20,000 inhabitants at this time. It was here that Andrew Tarnutzer, the first Evangelical missionary to Minnesota, entered the state, in the fall of *1856*. He found a few German families near

Rollingstone, among whom were the Blanchards and Wasems, to whom he preached. This was the first sermon preached by an Evangelical minister in this state, then a territory. On his way to conference in the spring of 1857 he again stopped here, visited some families and preached. L. von Wald came from Wisconsin, from the La Crosse Mission, a few times during the winter of '56-'57, and preached in and near Winona.

At the session of the Wisconsin Conference, in 1857, L. von Wald and G. von Eschen were given charge of the work of our church in Winona and south-eastern Minnesota in general. They took up appointments to preach at Rollingstone, Centerville, Wilson, Witoka, and went as far as Preston and Pleasant Grove. In the spring of 1857 George Hess and wife, who had been converted and joined the Evangelical Association in Cleveland, Ohio, under the labors of Rev. G. F. Spreng, moved to Winona. They gladly received the Evangelical ministers and helped them in the work. The preaching services were mostly held in private houses in those days, and these houses usually consisted of one or two rooms. The Thomas Hebrer and F. Waehler families were also helpful in establishing the work.

The first record of a quarterly conference is found under date of May 13, 1860. It was held in Thomas Hebrer's house. I. Kuter presided, Aug. Huelster was the preacher in charge, John Augustin and Fred Dickmann were the class leaders. These two laymen came from the country appointments. If there were any quarterly conferences held here before this time, the minutes thereof would be recorded in Wisconsin records. A year or so later we find the additional names of Gust. Blanchard, Alex. McConnel, F. Waehler, E. Hebrer and Carl Braun as members of the quarterly conference. In 1867 the following were members thereof: I. Kuter, M. Zickerick, G. Blanchard, father Sydow, F. Dickmann, J. Zimmermann, L. Haber, John Wasem, William Sydow, father Wasem, L. von Lackum, Jacob Kroehler, Tobias Kroehler, Jacob Boller, Chris. Sydow, George Haber and M. Knopp. Most of these were from Oak Ridge.

The first business meeting of the Winona congregation was held Sept. 12, 1866. I. Kuter was chairman and J. Schweizer secretary. M. Knopp, Chris. Lang and Wm. Sell were elected the first trustees. The first church, on East 4th Street, was built in 1866, and the parsonage beside it in 1867. This church prospered during the coming years. In 1885 it entertained the conference. By this time a number of families had settled in the west-

ern part of the city and along Gilmore road, so it was planned to build a second church. The site selected was the corner of West King and Baker Streets. This church was built in 1888 and was called Immanuel's church. A parsonage was built beside it in 1894. For some years two ministers were stationed to Winona, but the old East End church grew weaker until the conference deemed it best to discontinue the work there and sell the property, which was done in 1902. Most of the remaining members of the old church joined the Immanuel's church, while a few went to other churches.

The work in Winona suffered considerably from the church trouble about 1890, and lost some members through Dowieism, Spiritualism, Baptism and other isms. The language question was managed quite wisely, so that not much loss resulted therefrom. The transition from the German to the English language will soon be completed, and then the society ought experience a period of rapid growth.

The pastors who served Winona, East Fourth Street, were: 1857-'59, L. von Wald and G. von Eschen; '59-'60, G. von Eschen and J. Rahskopf; '60-'61, Aug. Huelster; '61-'62, W. Stegner; '62-'63, C. Brill; '63-'64, W. Giess; '64-'65, J. H. Schmitt; '65-'68, I. Kuter, with M. Zickerick as assistant the last year; '68-'69, F. Emde and L. M. Mueller; '69-'70, G. H. Knebel; '70-'71, E. H. Baumann; '71-'74, H. Bunse; '74-'76, Aug. Knebel; '76-'79, W. Oehler; '79-'82, J. Manthey; '82-'85, J. G. Simon; '85-'88, J. L. Stegner; '88-'90, W. Oehler; '90-'93, G. Duebendorf; '93-'94, G. Spaeth; '94-'95, F. Haueter; '95-'97, M. Schoenleben; '97-'99, J. J. Boelter; '99-1900, F. P. Werner; 1900-'01, J. Manthey; '01-'02, J. D. Moede.

West King Street church: '88-'90, W. Oehler; '90-'93, G. Duebendorf; '93-'94, G. Spaeth; '94-'98, B. Simon; '98-1900, G. Spaeth; 1900-'02, J. Manthey; '02-'05, H. Bunse; '05-'10, A. Geyman; '10-'14, F. R. Plantikow; '14-'21, A. H. Utzinger; '21-, H. H. Georgius.

The Presiding Elders were: 1857-'59, J. G. Escher; '59-'60, L. Buehler; '60-'64, I. Kuter; '64-'66, J. Hammeter; '67-'68, W. Stegner; '68-'71, I. Kuter; '71-'75, W. Stegner; '75-'79, A. Strohmeier; '79-'80, H. E. Linse; '80-'84, H. Bunse; '84-'87, H. E. Linse; '87-'91, A. Strohmeier; '91-'92, H. E. Linse; '92-'96, J. G. Simon; '96-1900, G. W. Hielscher; 1900-'04, F. R. Plantikow; '04-'06, H. Plantikow; '06-'10, J. M. Baitinger; '10-'14, H. Plantikow; '14-'18, M. Schoenleben; '18-'22, C. F. Kachel.

The *Wilson* appointment thrived in the early years, and a neat little country church was built there in 1873. It was at times served from Winona, at other times from Oak Ridge, and again from Mound Prairie. It would be difficult to give the list of pastors which served it. Through death, removal and withdrawal it lost heavily, and now contains only a few members. The other settlers there are not susceptible to true Christianity.

The appointments *Centreville* and *Witoka* never gained a good foothold and were early discontinued.

Worthington

This field is situated in south-western Minnesota. Worthington and surrounding territory belonged to Jackson Mission in the early days. Rev. P. Bott was the pathfinder in these parts of the state as early as 1870 to '71. W. Oehler succeeded him in 1873. These two men took up many new appointments and held them for our conference. In 1877 B. Simon preached in the home of the Henzberger family near Worthington, and west of that place in the Bluhm home. Some time later the ministers came over from Luverne to preach here, among them L. S. Stapf in 1886-'89. Some of the early members of this congregation were the Henry Apel, John Rippberger, George H. Doeden, W. F. Moss, H. Pfeil, J. Dalheim, Philip Anton and J. H. Schuck families. The church was organized in 1889. H. Apel was elected class leader, W. F. Moss exhorter, and P. Anton Sunday-school superintendent. The church was built in 1891 under the supervision of S. B. Goetz, and the parsonage in 1902 during the pastorate of J. H. Muehlhausen. The former at a cost of $1650, and the latter for $1727, including barn and well. Many good revival meetings have been held and precious souls were saved during the same. The work has changed from the German into the English language.

The *Bethel* church is about 10 miles east of south-east of Worthington. Here a church was bought in 1893, while F. H. Draeger served the field. W. C. Barton was class leader in 1891. This congregation never developed much strength.

Our ministers preached at *Wilmont* for a number of years. John Geisel was our mainstay there. Several other families also belonged to the church. This point has been discontinued.

The Worthington Mission was formed in 1889 of the following appointments: Worthington, taken from Luverne Mission; Lakefield and Heron Lake, from Fairmont, and Fulda and Rath-

lisberger, from Pipestone. These appointments have since all been dropped but Worthington. The pastors of this field were: S. B. Goetz, '89-'92; F. H. Draeger, '92-'95; C. W. Wolthausen, '95-'99; F. C. Schmidt, '99-'02; J. H. Muehlhausen, '02-'06; G. G. Schmid, '06-'11; H. H. Georgius, '11-'13; E. F. Brand, '13-'15; F. W. Hauser, '15-'19; R. L. Wintz, '19-'20; C. E. Borchard, '20-'22.

PART IV

Anecdotes and Narratives from the Experiences of Evangelical Ministers and Laymen

Anecdotes

Convinced by Arndt

A man by the name of Jacob Britzius, living in Trout Valley, Winona County, came under the influence of our ministers, but resisted the Spirit of God. He was induced to go with a number of others to a revival meeting at Kroehlers. The power of God manifested itself in the conviction and conversion of sinners, but Mr. B. would not even kneel down, but sat up straight, and pretended to be unaffected. Different persons spoke to him about his soul, but he would not be persuaded to come forward to seek the forgiveness of his sins. Finally it got too warm for him, and he became impatient and said, he was going home; that he had Arndt's Wahres Christentum (Arndt's "True Christianity") at home, and he was going to read that, and find out what he said about conversion. He did not believe that Arndt taught it. So he went home and began reading Arndt, but the further he read, the more he found that Arndt taught conversion. At last he was persuaded that he must be converted. He went to the next revival meeting and was happily saved. He lived an exemplary Christian life for many years.

Convicted by Sleeping

In the Trout Valley also lived father Jacob Wasem. He attended the Evangelical services at an early date and thought much of the first ministers, especially of August Huelster. But he put off his conversion and hardened his heart. He wanted to be saved, but was not earnest enough about it, and so could not make an actual experience. He now began to blame the ministers, and say that they did not preach right, and were not like the first ones. At this juncture he heard that Brother Huelster was coming to La Crescent on a visit and would preach there. That was his opportunity, he thought, and drove down. While Huelster was preaching father Wasem went to sleep. When he awoke he was chagrined about it and now realized that it was not a particular

minister who could save him, or that any preacher was to blame that he was not converted, but that the blame rested on himself. This brought conviction to his soul and he began to seek earnestly and soon found peace.

A Conflict

It happened that Brother Passer and a Lutheran pastor both preached at different times in the home of a man named Borchardt. Finally the Lutheran clerygman gave out an appointment on Passer's Sunday and at the same hour. But nothing undaunted Brother P. put in his appearance and claimed his right to preach. After a short altercation P. put it up to the man of the house to decide who should preach. He decided in favor of Passer. After he had finished his sermon, he kindly requested the other man to preach also, but he was so angry that he said he could not in the presence of P.

Devilment

At a certain meeting a woman was convicted and converted. This so angered her husband that he knocked everything to pieces in their home. The devil gets mad when people are saved and often induces his followers to show their master's nature.

Answer to Prayer

In the city of Philadelphia lived a certain family in destitute circumstances, caused by the bibulous habits of the father. The mother was a good Christian and a member of the Evangelical Association. At the time when another child was to arrive in the home there was not a crust of bread in the house, nor a stitch of clothing in which to wrap the expected newcomer. In her straits she cried to God for help and vowed that if he would send her relief she would consecrate the child to be born that night to the service of God. A baker, a member of our church, became uneasy and felt he must bring the aforementioned family some bread. So he packed a basketful of bread and carried it to that home. A certain woman who knew the family was impressed that same night that she must take them some clothing. She gathered up a parcel of clothing and took it over. Thus clothing and bread were provided in the time of need as an answer to prayer. The boy who was born in that home that night later became a minister of our conference, in which he served successfully many years.

Afraid of Conversion

At one of the appointments on Pipestone Mission lived a family which had recently come from Germany. They began to attend the services of the Evangelical church. A revival meeting was soon held, in which the power of God manifested itself in the conviction and conversion of sinners. This was something new with father V. It angered him to see the physical demonstrations and hear the shouting in church. He was accustomed to have everything quiet in the sanctuary. So he ran out of the church and remained about an hour. But it was cold outside, and so he came in again. At the close of the service he told some one that he would never enter that church again. Brother B., the pastor, visited him the next day, and persuaded him to come again that evening. When he entered the church he remained standing, fearing to sit down, so he would be ready for any emergency. He held out until the altar service began, when he began to tremble. Rev. S., who assisted in the meetings, then went to him and exhorted him to yield to the Spirit of God and give his heart to Christ, whereupon he came to the altar and prayed through into life eternal. He was gloriously saved.

Not Room for Two in One Bed

While Rev. P. was yet a young minister he was enthusiastic and aggressive. It happened that a Lutheran pastor shared the same territory with him. The former, after a trip of seventy miles, came to a family named U. Here he met said pastor V., who had just preached on the text: The devil goeth about like a roaring lion. In his sermon he referred to Rev. P. as the roaring lion. After a little while the ministers began disputing on religious matters, and V. accused P. of not knowing the ten commandments. Hereupon P. challenged V. to repeat them and compete with him in rehearsing the Lutheran Catechism. V. was dumbfounded and positively declined. When it was time to go to bed the man of the house showed them both into the same bedroom, because the house was small and he had no more rooms to spare. Bro. P., after silent prayer, retired for the night, but his partner would not undress and go to bed, but spent the night on a hard bench.

In Danger

In the spring of 1870 there was much rain, and the various creeks and rivers overflowed their banks. Rev. Passer had to move from Middle Creek to Luverne. He drove down with horse

and buggy, having his wife and oldest daughter with him. His goods were hauled down, a distance of seventy miles, with a wagon. At one place they had to cross a stream, whose waters far overflowed its banks. He hesitated a little to drive into the wide expanse of water, but knew no other way to proceed on his journey. So in he drove. When he got to where the bridge used to be, his horse tumbled down, head first, and the buggy after it. The bridge had been taken away, leaving a deep hole, into which the horse fell. Passer and his family floated in the water up to their heads. Neither could swim. Very soon he got his foot onto something solid so he could stand. He cried to God to save his wife and child. Miraculously, as though led by an unseen hand, they came to him, his wife holding the child. She, too, then stood on the same solid substance with her husband, and the child they held above the water. Now they began to call for help. Together they called again and again as loud as they could. After some time they saw a man approaching; but he could not get near enough to rescue them. Then he went back to his home and got a long pole, and waded into the water far enough to reach those in danger. He pulled out Mrs. P. first and then Bro. P. The horse was drowned, and $90.00 in money had swam away, but was later recovered.

A Jehu

Rev. H. was fond of good horses, took care of them well, and drove fast. He seldom let any one drive by him. One winter, when the snow was very deep, and the roads had been piled up high, on the way home from a funeral, he, being at the rear of the procession, turned out, and galloped his ponies through the deep snow until he had passed all the teams. He was progressive.

Experiences of J. Kienholz

He held a revival meeting in Emanuel's church at Blue Earth. The people seemed cold and indifferent. Nothing stirred spiritually. While he was preaching the third sermon on the same text the storm broke loose, and a great manifestation of God's power occurred. Every Christian began to shout, and sinners came to the altar for pardon without invitation, and soon pressed through into eternal life. The glory of God appeared in the form of a supernatural light. It never was forgotten by those who experienced and witnessed it.

During a revival meeting at Blue Earth, in the winter, one evening a terrible blizzard raged. He did not know whether he

should go over to the church, for he feared no one would be present; but he went and found two men there. He preached as usual, and one of the men was converted. A small audience may also be blessed.

A Bunch of Mockers Converted

At S. there were quite a number of young men who had grown up under the sound of the Gospel, but had hardened their hearts. During a revival meeting they mocked the minister and the members in their prayers, aped after the exercises with the seekers at the altar, practiced mock conversions, etc. They had clubbed together and strengthened one another in their sins. One evening they held a mock revival service, and one of them, one K., preached the sermon. This they considered great fun. (One of the good church members, S. N., overheard them.) That night this mock-preacher dreamt that he was at the Judgment, and was being judged. In his dream he became frighened, and cold perspiration covered his body. When he awoke he found it was only a dream, but he could not get rid of the impression it made on him. At the next revival meeting he was the first one to come forward and be converted. The whole number of young fellows were soon converted and some of them became good workers in the church, one of them becoming a presiding elder. God can save even the mockers if they turn to him.

Experiences of Rev. Manthey

During his first year as pastor, while living at New Ulm, he had an appointment for Sunday across the Minnesota River. It was toward spring and the sun had thawed the snow and ice considerably. Since there was no bridge across the river at that time, in 1871, people crossed it on the ice in the winter. As he approached the river a woman called to him not to cross. She said that her husband had told her that morning that she should caution every one who would come to cross the river that day, for the ice had become very brittle. But the young minister felt in duty bound to meet his appointment, so he dared, in spite of the warning, to cross. He unhitched his horse from the buggy, and led it by a long line. For a while all went well, but all at once the ice broke and the horse sank into the deep river. Rev. M. held fast to the line, and in a little while the animal came up with its head out of the water. The horse struggled, but could not get on top of the solid ice. M. risked his life, lay down flat

on the ice and got his horse's front hoofs out of the water and on the ice. Finally the animal succeeded in leaping out of the cold water onto solid footing. He led the horse across then and went back after his buggy, which he pulled across by hand. God helps those who help themselves.

At Crow River Brother M. had to cross the river in the early spring in order to reach his appointment. The water covered the ice several feet deep. He risked to drive in. All at once the horse plunged down into a hole in the ice, and both got a cold bath. Miraculously both got out alive, and without any bad after-effects.

Near Redwood Falls he had to cross the river during high water. He was on horseback. Boldly he rode into the deep stream, and his good steed bravely swam with its rider on its back for the other shore. All would have gone well, barring the wet legs of the rider, if the saddle-girt had not become unbuckled. Then both saddle and rider came off and sank into the water. Fortunately both man and beast made their way safely out of the ice-cold bath, and went their way rejoicing, for it might have been worse.

A Dream

John Schmitt, after preaching for some time without having visible results, became discouraged and felt like going to another field. At this point he had a wonderful dream. He dreamt he was hammering away at a big, big, hard rock. He struck blow after blow, but no impression was made. All at once the rock burst and broke into many pieces, and out of it came many precious pearls. This dream he interpreted to mean that he should keep on with the work and pound away at the hardened hearts until they broke. He did so and had a glorious revival. This was at Blue Earth.

A Thief

While Rev. M. G. was pastor at S. he noticed that every once in a while some of his hay mysteriously disappeared from the hay-loft of his barn. He watched but could not catch any one stealing it. After a time he noticed that the hay was taken when he was gone from home. So late one afternoon he hitched up his horse and took his grip and drove off, but only to a farmer near town, where he put his horse and waited for the approach of the night. Under cover of darkness he walked back to his home and hid in the hay-loft. At about two o'clock he heard a

noise, and soon a man climbed up, gathered a large armful of hay and was about to go to the door with it when Rev. G. let loose with the buggy whip on the man with considerable force. The frightened thief could not comprehend at once what was happening to him, but felt the stinging pain. He might have thought that the devil or some ghost was after him, for he piteously cried out: "Mary, mother of God, pray for me! Mary, mother of God, pray for me!" He threw the hay to the ground, leaped down and disappeared in the darkness. Rev. G. missed no more hay after that. It is a long road that has no turn.

Man Ducking His Wife

Before Rev. M. G. entered the ministry, while he was living on a farm, he heard a noise down at the river one day. He ran to see what was the matter. As he approached he noticed a man holding his wife in the river and ducking her under the water every little while. The woman screamed piteously. Such cruelty angered Mr G., and he sprang upon the man, pulled him to the shore, and began to maul him. While engaged in this he suddenly received a blow upon his head with a fence rail, which almost stunned him. He looked around, and, behold, there stood the woman to whose rescue he had come, ready to strike him again. Then he let the man go and gave the woman a piece of his mind. He then made up his mind never to help a woman again when her husband was abusing her.

An Answer to Prayer

While Rev. M. G. was minister at B. E. during a revival meeting, he preached on prayer one evening. Among other things he said that if a person prays in the right way God will answer the prayer. After the service a woman, whose husband was still unconverted, and who had hardened his heart by resisting the Spirit and the Word of God, asked the minister if he really meant what he said in his sermon about prayer. "Most certainly I did," he answered, "or else I would not have said it." The woman went home and, after attending to the necessary things, knelt down to pray and remained on her knees all night. The husband noticed it and only got angry about it. During the next day she prayed from morning till night. She remained on her knees again during the second night. Toward morning the man could stand it no longer. He said: "Emilie, are you doing that for me?" She answered: "Yes." Then he got out of bed and knelt down beside

her, and both prayed until he was gloriously saved. Now he began to shout and praise God with a loud voice. "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" he cried out. Then he hastened to tell the glad news to his neighbors, and above all, to his pastor. There was general rejoicing when it became known that A. H. was so gloriously converted. After that he lived a consistent, Christian life. He has gone to glory.

Nearly Frozen

While A. W. was serving Sauk Centre Mission, he attempted to make a long trip over the prairie during a blizzard. The track was soon filled with snow so it could not be seen, and he lost his way. The icy wind pierced his face, his hands grew stiff from cold, and he could find no house. In his predicament he tied the lines around his body and sat down in the box of the cutter and let the horse go as it pleased. After going some time the horse stopped, and soon a man was at hand and got the almost unconscious minister out of his cutter into the house and thawed him out. The horse, left to himself, remembered a place where the minister sometimes stopped,, and found it in this emergency.

The Stolen Hat

While A. W. was serving H. Circuit, he was caught in a heavy rain-storm one Saturday afternoon on the way to his Sunday morning appointment. For shelter he drove into the yard of a German Lutheran farmer. This man received the minister and permitted him to remain there over the night. The next morning the Reverend departed and served his appointments. On Monday he came home, but scarcely had he arrived there when a constable appeared with a summons and arrested him for stealing a hat. When he left the farmer's place on Sunday morning he, by mistake, took the man's hat, for it looked just like his own. Neither did he detect the mistake until he was arrested. The trial came off, and the minister was found "not guilty." This is a proof of how mean some men can be.

Lost Money

While Rev. H. H. was serving R. L. Circuit, he superintended the rebuilding of the church and also acted as treasurer of the building fund. He was always willing to assist at manual labor, if necessary. One day he went along to help load some material for the church from the cars onto wagons. He took off

his coat, in which he had quite a sum of money belonging to the church, and laid it down somewhere while he was working. When he came to get his coat again the money was gone, and he never got it again. The congregation was sympathetic and sustained the loss. Sometimes a good turn is abused.

Charm Letter

E. J. H., while serving B. E. Circuit, had some outlying appointments, on one of which he found a superstitious family. They had a charm letter which said that any one who had that letter could not be harmed, even a dog could not be shot when it was wrapped up with that letter. Dire punishment was predicted for the one who would not believe its contents, or who spoke disparagingly about it. Rev. H. reasoned with the people, telling them they should not believe such foolishness, but to no avail. Then he offered to make a trial of it. He had been an officer in the German army, and was an expert marksman. He offered to shoot the family's dog with the letter tied around his head. They were alarmed at such daring, but gave their consent, fearing for the minister's life. The dog was tied to a tree with the charm letter around his head. The minister took the gun and aimed, while the people looked on with amazement and fear. A loud report of the gun, a tattered letter, and a dead dog followed in quick succession. The family lost all faith in charm letters, and considered the pastor a hero.

Double Wedding

It was in the early days. Weddings at that time were a thing almost unknown. And now a double wedding! Yes, the day had been appointed, the minister engaged, and the guests invited. To be on the safe side, on the evening preceding the wedding the minister asked one of the grooms whether he had secured his license. The astonished young man answered: "No." Thereupon the minister informed him that he could not perform the marriage ceremony until they had procured their licenses. What was to be done? The next morning, bright and early, with the thermometer thirty below, two young men were observed driving at a lively gate with a frisky team of horses toward the county seat, thirty-two miles distant. It was soon known that the weddings had been postponed a day. The licenses were procured, and on the next day, after the minister had delivered a wedding sermon of an hour's duration, four hearts were united into two happy couples. Both couples are still living.

The Prevented Dance

Rev. F. C. S. was asked to perform the marriage ceremony for a certain young couple. Many guests were invited to the bountiful wedding supper. A day or so before the wedding the minister was secretly informed that there would be beer and a dance connected with it. He at once said to his wife: "We must prevent that. We will remain till the guests go home, and if it will be all of the night." The ceremony had been performed, and the great supper eaten, but the guests lingered. The minister also remained and engaged the father of the bride, who gave the wedding, in conversation. Slowly a few hours passed by, when one of the bride's younger brothers sneaked up to the father and said: "Wonn gate doss Donzen los? De Musikanten sin shon doe." ("When will the dancing begin? The musicians are here already.") "Sh! sh! Junge, gay mon weg!" the father replied. ("Sh! sh! boy! Go away!") The minister and his good wife remained and held the fort all night, and departed in the morning after about all of the guests had left. There was no dancing at that wedding that night. What secret curses the young people may have heaped upon the minister is not known.

A Queer Penitent

During a revival meeting at M. B. a great awakening occurred, and many came to the altar for pardon. Among them was an elderly man named K. He had been seeking for several days without finding peace for his soul. One evening, after he had prayed for some time at the altar, he turned away from it and crawled through the aisle on his hands and knees until he reached the door, and then went out. After half an hour he came back and went to the altar again. People wondered why he had left the church in such a way. Many years later the secret came out. In the nearest house to the church lived a family named E. The woman had remained at home that evening. Suddenly she heard a rap at the door, and upon opening found Mr. K. there. He said: "I am so hungry, I had to leave the church and come over here to see if I could get something to eat." She gave him a lunch, which he ate, and then returned to the church and kept on seeking. That man, even to the end of his life, considered the physical food of more importance than the spiritual.

A Remarkable Conversion

At D. C. lived a man who had attended the services of the Evangelical church for many years, but had not been converted.

He was engrossed with acquiring earthly riches, working hard, scarcely taking time to visit with the minister when he called on him. A revival meeting was in progress. He had remained away from the services, but his good wife came as much as she could. One cold, stormy afternoon the minister walked the two miles to his home to induce him to come to the church that evening. He received the pastor kindly, but when approached about the salvation of his soul he made excuses. He promised, though, to drive to church that evening so the minister need not walk. The minister preached on the text: "God be merciful to me, a sinner." At the close of the sermon an invitation was given to the unconverted to come to the altar to seek salvation. To the surprise of all Mr. M. arose, smote upon his breast and said: "God be merciful to me, a sinner." He grabbed his unsaved neighbor, who sat beside him, by the arm and tried to pull him up to the altar. The neighbor refused to go, but Mr. M. came and prayed earnestly, but found no peace in church. After arriving at home that night his wife requested him to kneel down with her and pray until he was saved. He hesitated at first, but finally yielded. They prayed on, and on, until he could exercise faith in Christ, and was happily converted. The next morning he was one of the first to come to the church, and while yet a ways off, he cried out: "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! I am saved." His conversion created quite a stir in the meeting.

A Lion Made a Lamb

Near the beginning of our work at Crow River, Rev. W. served the mission. He was an outspoken, fearless preacher, calling the various sins by their right names. He fearlessly attacked the dead churches and preached repentance and conversion as necessary conditions of salvation. In that neighborhood lived a Lutheran family named C. P. The Evangelical members had invited him to the revival meetings, and would get him and his family with their conveyances. Rev. W. denounced the sins of the Lutherans so severely one evening that C. P. could not control his temper any longer, and jumped up, grabbed the minister by the collar, pulled him over the table, intending to beat him. (The services were in a private house.) Other men sprang up and prevented the pounding of the preacher. The next evening, when the neighbors stopped at P.'s house to take him along, he refused to go, saying he had good books at home and would read in them. The rest of the family went along to the services. He took an old German hymn book and began to read. He was soon so convicted

by those hymns of the necessity of a conversion that he hastily dressed and walked to the place of meeting, threw his cap into a corner, hastened to the mourners' bench, fell upon the floor and cried for mercy. He was soon converted, and for many years lived a consistent, Christian life.

A Debate

When the Brainerd Mission was formed, an appointment, called Dagget Brook, was connected with it. The people were poor and lived mostly in log huts. The young minister, who was serving his first charge, was zealous in building up the work, and preached there about every two weeks, mostly on work-days. The people were eager for the Word of God and seemed to appreciate his services. Most of the people had formerly belonged to the Church of God. Just about at the time the neighborhood was ripe for a good revival and an ingathering of souls, a pastor of that denomination, who lived nearly one hundred miles away, heard of the state of affairs, came to D. B., and persuaded the people not to join our church, but start services of their own. One of the settlers, who formerly had been a local preacher, was appointed to preach for them. Those people then held their services regularly on Sundays, but they also attended when the Evangelical minister preached. Said local minister listened to what the Evangelical minister said, and at his next service he took the same text and contradicted him. We had one Evangelical family and other adherents there, and they informed the Evangelical minister of what was being done. He then also defended his doctrine privately and publicly. This caused an agitation along doctrinal lines. The two principals came together several times and each tried to convince the other that he was wrong. Finally the Evangelical minister challenged the other to a public debate, to which he agreed. Certain conditions were agreed to. One was that there should be no other pastors present; another was that there should be no decision at the close of the debate by the people. Two timekeepers were appointed, and each speaker was to speak twenty minutes at a time, and then give way to the other. It was a fine summer day, and by ten o'clock the whole neighborhood was assembled in a private home to hear the debate. The debate lasted from ten o'clock A. M. till six P. M., with an interruption of one and one-half hours of nooning. At the close of the debate the Church of God minister broke the agreement by calling for a vote of the people. To this the Evangelical objected, telling the folks

what the agreement was. When the people left for their homes, another clergyman of said church came into the yard. He had been notified and requested to be present, but thought the debate would be in the evening, and therefore came too late, and missed all the excitement. No particular good came from this debate. Both parties continued to hold their services, and the result was that after a number of years neither side had anything, and all services died out.

A Miser's Penny

During the year 1900 the Evangelical Association celebrated the centennial of its existence. Every congregation was requested to observe it with an appropriate program. At S. it was celebrated in connection with the quarterly meeting. The history of our church, of the conference and of the local church were given. A certain old man, who was one of the first members, was given a place on the program, and he spoke fittingly of the beginning of our work at that place. Everybody seemed to be pleased with the exercises and in good spirits. A special centennial offering was announced for the occasion, and for a commendable project. This old man was known to be stingy, and often stirred up a fuss on account of the expenses of the church, but the people thought that on this occasion he would open up his heart, because he was specially honored, and give a liberal amount for the collection. The man who gathered the collection watched to see what the miser would give, and, to his astonishment, he saw him throw in a bright yellow piece of money. He thought, surely that was a five-dollar gold piece. When he and another man counted the offering they could not find a five-dollar gold piece, but instead they found a bright, new penny. Said miser was very rich. Money was his god. He was a hindrance to the work for many years. Finally he was dropped from the membership list. "The love of money is the root of all evil."

A Burning Home

During a very cold part of a winter in the early nineties of the last century a revival meeting was being held at D. C. It was so cold that the people decided to hold the services in a private home instead of the church. The minister had finished the sermon and the congregation was on its knees, praying with and for seekers. All of a sudden a woman cried out aloud: "L.'s house is burning." In an instant everybody ceased praying, and some of the men rushed out, and the meeting was at an end. Mr. L., who

otherwise was quite slow, soon had one of his horses out of the barn, jumped on its back and galloped for his house, which was nearly a mile distant. Others followed him. A team was soon hitched to a sleigh and filled with people. The snow was very deep and the roads packed high, yet all rode and drove as fast as the horses could go. The L.'s had left three of their children at home, and they feared that they might have gone to sleep and burned to death. Mrs. L. screamed and cried out: "O, my children! They are burned to death, and I am to blame!" Mr. L. was the first to reach the scene of the fire, and to his joy found his children unharmed in the barn. They had not yet gone to bed when the fire started upstairs, and detected it in time to escape out of the house. They quickly lit the lantern, so they might see where to go when they got out of doors. The house and contents were a total loss.

An Amusing Incident

At a certain special meeting a number of ministers were present, one of whom had the habit of dozing during the sermon. In those days it was customary for one minister to preach and another to close the services, if more than one were present. At the close of the sermon the minister who preached said: "Brother E. will close the services." The dozing brother heard this, and before he really knew what he was doing, was on his feet and began to sing: "Erwach zum Dank, o mein Gemuet" ("Awaken, to give thanks, O, my soul"), which was a song generally sung at the morning worship in the homes. Everybody smiled at Brother E.'s expense.

An Employer

Rev. M. K. used to tell the following story: "When I was a young man I worked for a certain farmer who was anxious to get as much work done as possible. He professed to be a Christian, and kept up his family worship. One morning he was very much in a hurry, but would not omit his family prayers. He hurried through his prayer, and at the close said: 'Amen, Mike, yoke up the oxen.'"

Is There a Hell?

Brother H. related the following incident. It frequently happened, on account of the deep snow and impassable roads, that I was obliged to take the train to meet my appointments. Occa-

sionally the train became snowbound, so that I was obliged to spend hours in the coach until the track was cleared. On one of these occasions I spent the night in a railway coach in company with eight men. To pass the time an animated discussion was carried on, and finally the subject of religion was touched upon. One man said that he did not believe in a hell. Another asked him if he believed in a devil, to which he replied that he did believe in a devil, but not in a hell. Upon this a Scandinavian with a strong foreign brogue said: "Ef you beliefe in a dewil, you must also beliefe in a hell, because de dewil muhst haf a house to lif in." This caused the whole company to laugh. The answer of this Scandinavian contained quite a bit of sound theology.

A Strange Coincidence

Brother G. W. H. was on his way to the district meeting at Zion, near Paynesville. He came from Dakota to the nearest station. Through correspondence he had aranged with the pastor that some one should meet him at this place, twenty miles distant. When he arrived and found no one to meet him, he started on foot, for it was only four o'clock in the afternoon, and walked ten miles before night overtook him. Upon request he found lodging with a well-to-do farmer. Being tired he retired early and fell asleep immediately. At midnight he awoke and heard the clock strike twelve. He now began to think of the convention, and became anxious about being there for the opening hour. It was clear to him that if he waited until morning before leaving he would miss the first half-day of the meeting. This thought made him feel uneasy, and he had no more rest, so he got up, woke his landlord, paid his bill, got a description of the way he had to go, and started out. After having walked about a mile he noticed some one coming with a rig. In the darkness he could not distinguish who it was, but the man's voice and the manner of driving the horse indicated that it was Rev. Lenz, the pastor of Zion. These facts impelled him to greet the driver and ask whether he were Rev. Lenz. To their mutual joy this proved to be correct. By an oversight Rev. L. had neglected to send a team for Brother H., but on missing him in the Monday evening service, it came to his mind, and he himself started out ofter the service to meet him at the station, twenty miles away. If Brother H. had remained comfortably in bed, Rev. L. would have missed him and driven the twenty miles, and Rev. H. would have walked the remaining miles the next morning. They considered this a providential in-

terference in their behalf for their good, for both were in time that morning for the opening of the convention. The Lord careth for his faithful servants.

Not Very Dangerous

1875

During his first year in the ministry, G. W. H. served a mission church in St. Paul. His father served the Pine Street church, and had supervision of the young preacher. During the revival meeting in the larger church, it was arranged that father and son would preach on alternate evenings. The young man, being somewhat nervous, and realizing his weakness, compared with the efforts of his father, found comfort in the thought that what he lacked in efficiency his father could supply, after his sermon was finished, by a powerful exhortation. But one evening the unexpected happened. A large audience was present. The young man was about to begin to preach when another Evangelical minister came in and hurriedly dropped into the back pew, expecting to remain unnoticed. But the alert eye of the preacher had seen him, and he became embarrassed. His heart began to beat faster, and cold chills chased down his back. But what could he do, he must meet the emergency. While preaching, he realized that his sermon was weak and felt ashamed of himself. O, the man-fearing spirit has been the undoing of many a minister! When about half through with his sermon, suddenly a tall man in the middle of the audience arose, eyeing the speaker sharply. This worked like a charm on the young pastor. He imagined that the man wanted to complain about his sermon, and tell him to sit down, for he couldn't preach anyhow. Young H. could go no farther, but sat down and called on his father to proceed with the meeting. The elder H. arose calmly and asked the standing man what he wanted. The man answered: "O, nothing. I was so sleepy, and you frequently told us that when we are bothered with sleep we should simply arise and look the minister square in the face until the sleepiness is gone." This caused considerable merriment in the congregation, but to the young minister it seemed a humiliation. He has frequently related this incident. His later life proved that he had profited by that experience.

By the Ears

The serious and the amusing are often found in close proximity. Many years ago G. S. had a frisky horse. One time it was his duty to convey his presiding elder to some place. For some

reason the horse took into his mind to run away, even if the P. E. was on the buggy. The escapade ended disastrously. Both the divines were thrown out; the one received a broken leg, and the other was hurt all over. Soon sympathetic people were on hand to do for the unfortunates what they could. A wagon was secured to convey the injured men to town. But how to get them into the wagon! Whenever the men took hold of the P. E. to lift him, he demurred on account of pain. At last one man said: "Well, where shall we take hold of you?" "By the ears," was the laconic reply.

Only a Different Route

Once one of our presiding elders attended a Baptist revival meeting in Minneapolis. Being a stranger in that church he took a seat toward the rear, but listened devoutly to the interesting sermon. During the after-meeting instructed personal workers got busy in the audience, soliciting sinners to come out for Christ. So one lady came to our good P. E. and appealed to him to become a Christian. He answered: "I am a Christian, only I go by a different way than you do. You go by water, and I go by land." The good lady did not stop to argue, but passed quietly on with a slight blush on her face.

Self-Sacrifice

One winter in the early history of our conference there was very much snow, and the railroads were blockaded for weeks. Our good presiding elder, Wm. S., who lived in Mankato, happened to be in the south-western part of the state when the trains ceased running. He had done his work there and other appointments were waiting for him. What should he do? There was no prospect for getting home by train for some weeks. He got as far as Worthington, and from here he walked, carrying his grip, almost one hundred miles, over the boundless prairies, where the blizzards raged from day to day, until he reached home in safety. How those early pioneers risked even their lives for the sake of Christ's kingdom!

Selfish

Rev. J. G. writes: In the first year of my ministry, 1875, I served on the extended Maple Grove Mission, under the supervision of A. Walch. We held a revival meeting in a private home on one of our appointments. Many people attended, and many

sinners came under conviction, and prayed for pardon. The power of God manifested itself in the conversion of a number of souls. We were especially solicitous for the conversion of the adult children of the family, in whose house the meetings were held. On a certain evening the Word of God took hold of the second son, and he came forward repenting and calling upon God for salvation. When his older brother noticed this, he broke down, fell upon the floor and cried for mercy, saying among other sentences: "Dear Lord, don't let my brother get into heaven until I come!" Both pressed into the kingdom of God yet that same evening.

It Went Wrong

While J. G. was serving Elizabeth Mission he preached at Wild Rice, now Great Bend, every two weeks, to five families. This appointment was on the point of being lost to our church on account of a certain family who had a daughter whom they wanted confirmed. They had been persuaded by a certain pastor of another denomination that this was necessary for her salvation. They sent their daughter to said pastor for instruction in the catechism, and at last the great day for confirmation arrived. A great feast was prepared for the occasion. The pastor and two Vorsteher (deacons) were invited. When all were seated at the table they waited for the pastor to ask the blessing for the meal. He refused and said to the host: "I leave it to the man of the house to say grace." Thereupon the surprised host folded his hands and began to pray. He said a few words and got stuck. He started again, and again, but got no further. To help him out of his embarrassment, the deacons tried to help him, but they fared no better. They then began to eat without the formality of giving thanks, but no conversation was carried on. After the dinner the host went out and did not appear again until his honored guests were gone. When he came into the house he said to his family in an excited tone: "He shall never come into my house again. Such a preacher! He disgraced me! Whenever Pastor G. came he would pray at family worship and at the table, but this man? We will never go to his services again. From now on we will go to the Evangelical services." He kept his word and later the whole family was converted. We have a large congregation there now.

The Closed Bed

While J. G. was serving Elizabeth Mission he had taken up three new appointments to the north-west, the farthest being sev-

enty miles distant. Here he preached to German Russians. On a very cold winter day he came to this appointment, chilled through, and asked for lodging with a family which had kept him over night several times before. This family lived in a long dug-out. In one end of it lived the family, and in the other were housed the cattle and horses. This sod hut was four feet in the ground and as many feet above. After supper the good housewife sympathetically said: "I suppose you are tired and chilled through and would like to retire." He consented, and so she prepared a bed for him in a folding bench. During the day this was used as a bench by the members of the family. A little straw was put into it now, a pillow and two Russian pelts. The Reverend soon found himself in this cosy, snug, little bed, and soon went to sleep. (A man who drives a long distance on a cold winter day doesn't need any sleeping powders to go to sleep.) After he had gone to sleep the well-meaning hostess quietly stepped to the bed and put on the lid. He was now literally in a casket. At midnight he awoke, nearly dead, on account of a lack of air. At first he could not think where he was or what had happened to him, but he soon made use of his arms and knocked off the cover. After recovering a little he got up to go out to get a little fresh air. He found the door which led into the cow-barn open, for the family used this opening to ventilate their sleeping rooms. He remained outside for some time, filling his lungs with fresh air. How thankful he was to God that he had not choked to death in that box-bed!

The Penitent Man

In the summer of 1876, while J. G. was serving the Fergus Falls Mission, he received a letter from his presiding elder, the immortal Wm. Stegner, stating that he would come to his field to hold a quarterly meeting, and that G. should meet him at Alexandria, sixty miles distant. This was to be the first visit of a presiding elder to this field, and the people rejoiced greatly at the prospect of having the services of a higher official of the church. Brother G. drove the sixty miles with horse and buggy and got his elder. Rev. S. preached powerful sermons to the eager listeners. On Sunday morning a man came in his everyday clothes, well-read, with good Bible knowledge, but very indifferent as to his salvation. He listened attentively to the sermon—when, suddenly, tears began running down his cheeks into his shaggy whiskers. After the services Brother G. asked him how he was getting along. To which he feelingly replied: "Yes!

Yes! How shall I get along? That preacher uncovered all my dirty deeds. He struck the nail square on the head." During the evening this man was among the penitents. The meeting was prolonged till midnight with the hope that all would press through into the kingdom of God. This man, tired out with continual wrestling in prayer, sat on the floor and, not knowing what more to pray, he said: "Dear Lord, bless poor, wicked M. Thou didst cast out devils years ago, and let them enter into the swine. O, drive the devils out of me, for you have plenty of swine here yet into which they may enter." The meeting was closed at once.

Conversion of a Whole Family

Many years ago a Catholic family named G. lived on a farm between Wells and Rice Lake. They were quite devoted to their church. Rev. J. L. Stegner, then pastor of Wells Circuit, on his way to Rice Lake, decided to stop at their home and make their acquaintance. After having visited with them for a while, he asked for permission to offer a prayer in their home. This was granted and he prayed under the influence of the Holy Ghost. After he had left, the mother said: "He prays different than our priests." The father replied: "Yes, he can offer a fine prayer." After that Brother Stegner stopped there frequently and gained the good will and confidence of Mr. Gaines. Some months later Brother S. held a revival meeting at Cobb River and invited Mr. G. to attend. While at that meeting he came under conviction and went, with others, to the altar to be converted, but did not find peace for his soul. When he came home his wife gave him a terrible scolding and accused him of falling away from the faith. Before this he usually answered with cross words when his wife scolded him, but this time he listened meekly until she kept still, and then answered: "I have a soul to save or lose, and *you* have a soul to save or to lose. You can do as you please, but I must save my soul." So the next day he told his son to take good care of the cattle while he would be gone to the revival meeting at Rice Lake. There he continued seeking the pardon of his sins. Now his wife became uneasy, and the next day commanded one of her sons to hitch up the team and take her to the meeting. She soon came under conviction and, after seeking for several days, was happily converted into eternal life. Now she prayed earnestly with her husband until he, too, was gloriously saved. In the course of time the whole family was converted and joined

our church. One of the sons, William, became an Evangelical minister, and has for years been an honored and successful member of the Dakota Conference.

What far-reaching effects one visit or one prayer may have if done in the name of the Lord!

THE END

PART V

Tables

The Table I gives the names of all the Evangelical ministers who have been connected with the work of our church in our state, with only a few exceptions; their date and place of birth; the year of their conversion; the years in which they were licensed to preach, received into the itinerancy, ordained as deacon and as elder, when they retired, and died, and other information. Where any item of information was not obtained the space was left blank.

Table II contains a list of districts and their presiding elders.

Table III gives a list of presiding elders and the district they served.

Table IV contains a list of the delegates to the various sessions of the General Conference.

Table V contains a list of the churches which have been built or bought by our denomination, giving the name of the church and of the supervising pastor and the year in which it was built or acquired, with other information.

Table VI contains a list of the parsonages, with corresponding information.

It was extremely difficult to get some of the data for these tables. Some of the dates and other facts may be incorrect, but we endeavored to get as near to them as possible. If any of our readers discover mistakes, think the information correctly, and read on, remembering that we are human, and did the best we could under the circumstances.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
J. George Escher						1853			†	First P. E. in Minnesota.
Andrew Tarnutzer	Nov. 22, 1834			1855		1857	1859		1898	First Ev. minister in Minnesota.
August Huelster	Feb. 10, 1837	Germany	1854	1855	1855	1857	1859	1908	1915	Went to Calif. in 1910
Leonhart von Wald	Sept. 3, 1829	Switzerland	1851	1853	1853	1855	1857		1906	Went to Dakota Conf. in 1883; died Dec. 21, 1906.
George von Eschen	Feb. 22, 1835	Switzerland	1850	1857	1857	1859	1861		1880	Buried at Racine, Minn.
John H. Schmitt	Oct. 13, 1826	Ohio	1852	1858	1858	1860	1862		1889	Died at Waseca; buried at Mankato.
John Hammeter	April 6, 1833	Bavaria	1850	1857	1857	1859	1861		1866	Died during his second year as P. E.
William Stegner	Dec. 6, 1832	Saxony	1853	1856	1856	1858	1860		1883	Buried at Faribault.
Conrad Lahr	Jan. 21, 1834	Germany		1859	1859	1861	1863		1921	Had retired at Juda, Wis.
Henry E. Linse	June 6, 1835	Saxony	1853	1858	1858	1860	1862		1904	Moved to Washington, where he died.
Joseph Rahskopf		1835	Canada		1858	1858	1861	1863	1918	Left Minn. in 1865 and lived in Kan.
Leonhart Buehler	July 17, 1825	Switzerland		1852	1852	1854	1856		1906	Was P. E. in Minnesota one year.
Israel Kuter	June 23, 1824			1853	1853	1855	1857		†	Went to Illinois in 1871.
Oswald Ragatz	March 17, 1833			1853	1853	1855	1857			
C. Lewis Seder	July 29, 1830	Germany	1854	1856	1858	1860	1862		1862	Killed by the Indians near Redwood, Minn.
Christoph Brill	March 16, 1835	Kurhessen	1858	1860	1860	1862	1864		1891	Buried in St. Paul.
Frederick Emde		1831	Germany		1861	1861	1863	1865	1910	Died in State of Washington.
August Nierens		1828	Prussia	1854	1859	1861			Sept. 2, 1862	Killed by Indians 5 miles east of New Ulm. Buried near Nicollet.
Herman Bunse	May 22, 1841	Germany	1859	1862	1862	1864	1866	1906	Mar. 16, 1920	Lived in Mayer some years. Died and buried there.
Emanuel H. Baumann	May 22, 1841	Hanover	Feb. 14, 1858	1863	1863	1864	1866	1890	Feb. 9, 1903	Died at Blue Earth and was buried there.
William Giess				1863		1865	1867			Was expelled from church in 1871.
Jacob von Eschen		1830	Switzerland		1864	1864	1865	1867		Retired to farm near Odessa. Practiced medicine.
Joseph Kienholz	Jan. 25, 1841	Switzerland	1863	1866	1866	1868	1870			Retired 1904. Lived in St. Paul, but served small appointments.
John Baumann		Hanover				1864				
Conrad Werner	Oct. 23, 1823	Bavaria		1864	1866	1868		1869	Nov. 4, 1901	Lived for years at Sherburn, died and was buried there.
August Knebel	Jan. 16, 1836	Prussia	1862	1866	1866	1868	1870		Dec. 4, 1891	At Waseca, buried at Zion cemetery.
J. George Simon	June 30, 1845	Germany		1866	1866	1868	1870		Apr. 23, 1912	Died in St. Paul and was buried there.
Louis M. Mueller	Feb. 17, 1844	Wuerttemberg		1867	1868				Feb. 23, 1870	Was buried in Emanuel's cemetery.
Frank Dreblow		1826	Prussia		1867		1872		1895	Lived on farm near Blue Earth, where he died.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
H. Kleinsorge									†	Remained in Iowa Conference, two years in Minnesota.
Elias Weiss				1863	1863	1865			†	Located and gave up his license. Died near Milbank, Dak.
H. Brauer									†	Remained in Iowa Conference. One year in Minnesota.
D. N. Long									†	Remained in Iowa Conference. Two years in Minnesota.
Andrew Strohmeier	April 2,	1826 Germany		1856	1856	1858	1860		May 10, 1892	Served 16 years as Presiding Elder. Buried in Minneapolis.
J. Gustave Knebel		Prussia		1867	1867		1871			1878, was expelled.
Michael Ziekerick		1823 Germany			1873				†	Died at St. Charles. Served mostly as local minister.
George Yahn	Nov. 26,	1817 Alsace	1850	1858	1868	1868	1870	1886	Mar. 29, 1900	Died at Kasson and was buried there.
John G. Drehnel		1833 Prussia		1868	1868	1870	1872	1887		Withdrew from church, 1907, and joined Methodist Episcopal.
E. Julius Hielscher	Aug. 11,	1826 Prussia	1863	1868	1868	1870	1872	1898	Dec 19, 1914	Died in Faribault and buried there.
Adam Walch		1843 Bavaria		1869	1870	1871	1873	1879		Withdrew from church and joined U. E. Church, 1893.
Joseph Zimmermann		1835 Switzerland		1870	1875	1875	1877		1918 †	Died in Dakota.
Julius Manthey	Oct. 19,	1844 Prussia	1861	1870	1870	1872	1874	1917		Retired, 1917. Lived in Blue Earth.
J. Lorenz Stegner	Nov. 15,	1834 Saxony		1859	1870	1870	1872	1874	May 11, 1908	Died in St. Paul and buried there.
August C. Schmidt	Dec. 28,	1848 Wisconsin	1862	1870	1870	1872	1874		1912 Oct., 1920	Went to Dakota Conference, 1898, and later to Washington.
Peter Bott		1838 Prussia			1870	1870	1872	1874		1882, took Credentials for Pacific Coast.
F. William Lenz	June 23,	1841 Prussia	1858	1871	1871	1872	1874		May 25, 1911	Died in Florida.
C. William Sydow	Aug. 8,	1844 Germany	1866	1871	1871	1873	1875		Oct. 2, 1912	Died in Fairmont and buried there.
Henry Hensel	Dec. 11,	1843 Prussia		1871	1871	1873	1875	1917	Aug. 4, 1917	Died in Waseca and buried there.
Michael Knopf		1835 New York		1872	1872	1874	1876	1883	†	Went to California, where he died.
William Oehler		1847 Wuerttemberg		1872	1872	1874	1876			Withdrew from our church in 1890.
Frederick G. Sahr	Nov. 9,	1848 Prussia	1869	1872	1872	1874	1876		June 24, 1909	Died in Le Sueur, buried in St. Paul.
Ludwig Passer	Aug. 5,	1845 Germany	1870	1873	1873	1875	1877	1913		Retired, 1913. Lived in Waseca.
Frederick Moede	May 28,	1843 Germany	1862	1873	1873	1875	1877	1912	Feb. 24, 1920	Died at Paynesville, buried at Salem.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesoia*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
Herman Isker	Aug. 6, 1848	Germany	1857	1873	1882	1883	1885	1919	------	Retired, 1919. Lived in Minneapolis.
Balthaser Simon	Sept. 9, 1850	Germany	Feb. 18, 1868	1874	1875	1876	1878	-------	------	Moved to Washington in 1916.
Julius Gongoll	Jan. 29, 1850	Prussia	1870	1874	1875	1876	1878	1918	------	Settled down in Paynesville.
Christian F. Sydow	April 12, 1851	Wisconsin	1862	1874	{1876 {1881	1876	1882	1922	------	Settled at Blue Earth.
George Britzius	Nov. 4, 1845	Ohio	Dec. 26, 1865	1875	1876	1878	1880	1915	------	Settled down in Minneapolis.
Julius Fandrey	----------	Germany	-------	{1875 {1883	1876	-------	-------	-------	†	Went to Dakota, where he died.
Herman Ohs	1835	Germany	-------	1876	1877	1878	1880	-------	Died at Luverne	Withdrew from church in 1896, and went over to U. E. Church.
Frederick C. Schmidt	July 7, 1843	Prussia	1875	1876	1877	1878	1880	1903	Jan. 31, 1906	Died in Blue Earth and was buried there.
William C. Stegner	1851	New Jersey	-------	1876	1876	1878	1881	-------	------	Withdrew from our church.
George H. Siebold	May 4, 1857	Wisconsin	1874	{1876 {1883	1912 1884	1885	1887	1921	------	Retired, 1921, and settled at Farmington.
Ernst F. Movius	1853	Germany	-------	1875	1877	1878	1880	-------	------	Went to Dakota Conference.
George W. Hielscher	Dec. 28, 1855	Pennsylvania	1865	1877	1877	1878	1880	-------	------	Served 16 years in Dakota.
William Passer	----------	Germany	-------	1877	-------	1879	-------	-------	------	Went to Cal. after being in local relation for years.
William Fritz	1840	Germany	-------	1877	1879	1879	1881	-------	------	Went to Dakota Conference.
Frank R. Plantikow	July 6, 1856	Wisconsin	1866	1878	1878	1879	1881	-------	Dec. 17, 1914	Died in Washington, buried at Salem.
Martin Gagstetter	Oct. 27, 1844	Canada	1862	1878	1879	1880	1882	-------	June 23, 1905	Died at Hutchinson and buried there.
J. George Haller, Jr.	1858	New York	-------	1878	1879	1880	1882	-------	------	1882, left for Michigan Conference.
George Spaeth	1852	Germany	1868	-------	1879	1880	1882	1908	------	Settled in St. Paul. Held position in Emporium.
Conrad Oertli	July 3, 1842	Switzerland	1858	1873	1875	1875	1877	1911	------	Went to Dakota and, later, to Washington.
Peter Mumm	Sept. 9, 1858	Schleswig	1874	1881	1881	1882	-------	-------	Nov. 25, 1882	Died at Breckenridge.
Gottlieb Duebendorf	1858	Switzerland	1874	1880	1881	1882	1884	1910	------	Took work again, 1921.
Philipp Laux	1857	Wisconsin	-------	1881	1882	1883	1885	-------	------	Went to Dakota Conference.
F. William Tesch	Sept. 26, 1857	Germany	1878	1881	1882	1883	1885	1922	------	Settled in Hutchinson.
J. George Haller, Sr.	----------	----------	-------	1881	-------	-------	-------	-------	------	----------
Robert Johnsen	1852	Germany	-------	1881	1882	-------	-------	-------	------	Went to Oregon.
George Husser	1856	Minnesota	-------	1880	1880	1881	1883	-------	------	Went to Illinois and, later, to Calif.
William Blanchard	1857	Minnesota	-------	1880	1883	-------	-------	-------	------	Died in Dakota, where he preached.
Leonhardt S. Koch	Dec. 25, 1856	Switzerland	1868	1882	1882	1883	1885	-------	------	Withdrew from our church.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
Gustave J. Schmidt	March 24, 1856	Wisconsin		1882	1882	1883	1885		Apr. 14, 1886	Killed in cyclone at town of Graham.
Ferdinand C. Yenny		1855 Wisconsin		1882	1882					Went to Dakota.
John Richards				1882						Went to Oregon.
William Walter	Aug. 6, 1854	Prussia	1874	1883	1884	1885	1905			Sustained a local relation for some years, then took up work again.
William Suckow	June 9, 1855	Germany		1883		1885	1887		Feb. 20, 1921	Went to Dakota where he became a leader.
R. W. Teichmann				1883					†	Died a member of Dakota Conference.
Charles R. Koch		1844 Ohio		1874	1875	1876	1878		Dec. 13, 1881	1878, took credentials to Indiana. Died there.
Charles F. Kachel	April 2, 1859	Philadelphia	1875	1885	1886	1887	1889			
Otto Schulz		1851 Prussia		1885	1886	1887	1889			Took credentials to Oregon Conf., 1912. Later went to California.
Julius Graeben	April 29, 1850	Prussia	1870	1885	1887	1888	1890	1911		Lived at Mayer some time, then went to North Dakota.
John Erich		Germany		1885	1886	1887				Went to California.
Ferdinand F. Arndt	April 1, 1859	Wisconsin	June 21, 1875	1884	1886	1886	1888			
Adolph J. Iwan		1855 Germany		1884	1886	1887	1889			Went to Dakota Conference, 1915.
Louis S. Stapf	May 11, 1860	Minnesota	March 7, 1871	1884	1885	1886	1888	1906		Retired on account of sickness and became Sunday-school missionary.
Henry A. Seder	Jan. 5, 1858	Wisconsin	1871	1884	1885	1886	1888	1920	Jan. 19, 1921	Buried at Waseca.
James I. Seder	Jan. 29, 1859	Wisconsin	1871	1884		1888	1890			Sent as missionary to Japan, but soon returned.
Albert G. Sahr	Dec. 15, 1852	Prussia	1868	1886	1887	1888	1890		June 1, 1906	Died in Rochester, buried at Kasson.
Reinhold M. Mueller	April 3, 1863	Germany	1880	1886	1887	1888	1890			
William J. Vetter	Dec. 9, 1853	Pennsylvania	1882	1886	1887	1888	1890	1921		Worked in several conferences.
Ferinand R. Wolter		1856 Wisconsin		1886	1889	1889	1891			Withdrew from the church in 1912.
William A. Juedes	Oct. 16, 1864	Germany	1885	1887	1889	1889	1891			
Charles W. Wolthausen	Feb. 6, 1863	Illinois	1882	1887	1889	1889	1891			Went to State of Washington in 1911.
Silas B. Goetz	Oct. 8, 1861	Wisconsin	1877	1887	1889	1889	1891			
Herman Plantikow	Feb. 25, 1863	Minnesota	1878	1888	1890	1890	1892			
Frederick Schild				1888	1890	1890	1892			Went to California in 1896 and withdrew from our church.
Gustave A. Lippert	Jan. 11, 1867	Germany	1885	1888	1890	1890	1893			Left for Illinois. Returned from Switzerland, 1902.
William Knopp				1888		1894				Preached only one or two years.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itin. ceancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
George H. Schaefer	March 14, 1862	Wisconsin	1882	1889	1890	1890	1892	1922	------	Retired at Rochester.
August Reeck	July 24, 1861	Germany	Dec. 16, 1885	1889	1890	1890	1892	------	April 8, 1912	Died at Waseca. Buried there.
John M. Baitinger	Sept. 25, 1867	Minnesota	1880	1889	1891	1891	1893	------	------	Retired, 1910. Went into hospital and evangelistic work.
August T. Ehlert				1889	1891	1891	1894	------	------	Withdrew from our church, 1900.
Albert H. Utzinger	Sept. 2, 1861	Wisconsin	1871	1889	1891	1891	1893	------	------	
Carl A. Tesch	April 27, 1867	Germany	1879	1889	1891	1891	1893	------	------	
Peter C. Koch	Oct. 30, 1860	Switzerland	1878	1889		1892	1894	1903	------	Lives in Iowa.
F. H. Draeger	May 14, 1867	Wisconsin	1884	1889	1892	1892	1894	------	------	Went to Kansas in 1905 and, later, to California.
Albert Zabel	Oct. 20, 1868	Minnesota	1888	1890	1892	1892	1894	------	------	Went to Washington to serve as Presiding Elder, 1915.
Edward H. Bollenbach	Jan. 13 1868	Minnesota	June 15, 1886	1890	1893	1893	1895	------	------	
August F. Herzberg		Minnesota	------	1890	------	------	------	------	------	Went to Dakota in 1891, later to Iowa, and back to Dakota.
George J. Beck			------	1891 In Dak.	------	------	------	------	------	Returned his license, 1895. Received it again, 1897.
Emmet Helmer	May 17, 1866	Minnesota	1882	1891	1893	1893	1895	------	------	Took credentials to Washington Conference, 1911.
John J. Boelter		Minnesota	------	1891	1893	1893	1899	------	------	Took credentials to Wash. Conf., 1910. Later went to California.
John H. Muehlhausen	Nov. 17, 1871	Minnesota	1889	1892	1895	1895	1897	1909	June 14, 1914	Located in Winona, where he died and was buried.
Ernst Melzian	Dec. 11, 1872	Germany	1889	1892	1902	1902	1904	------	------	Went to Dakota Conference. Returned to Minnesota, 1920.
Samuel R. Iwig	March 2, 1868	Minnesota	1878	1892	1896	1896	1898	1910	------	Retired, 1910. Lived in Rochester.
Moses Schoenleben	Nov. 7, 1868	Minnesota	1878	1893	1895	1895	1897	------	Dec. 27, 1909	Died of tuberculosis. Buried at Wells.
F. William Siebel	Feb. 24, 1869	Germany	1882	1893	1895	1895	1897	1907	June 18, 1898	Died of tuberculosis. Buried at Courtland.
William Georgius	Nov. 11, 1865	Germany	------	1893	------	1895	------	------	------	Joined U. E. Church.
Thomas Koch		Wisconsin	------	1893	1895	1895	------	------	July 18, 1897	Buried at Mayer. Had tuberculosis.
Frederick Haueter	Sept. 4, 1870	Minnesota	1881	1894	1895	1895	------	------	------	
Reinhold C. Mittelstadt	March 2, 1867	Germany	1886	1894	1896	1896	1898	------	------	
Christian G. Roesti	Oct. 26, 1871	Switzerland	1888	1895	1901	1901	1903	------	------	
Gustave H. Kowalke	Feb. 15, 1873	Minnesota	1889	1895	------	1916	1918	------	------	Went to Dakota.
David Groenig		1864	Wisconsin	1882	1895	1899	1897	1899	------	------	Came from Free Methodist Church, 1895. Went to Washington, 1917.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
George Koch	Oct., 1865	Wisconsin				1895				Went to Washington Conf., 1897.
Christ C. Engelbart	Feb. 13, 1864	Minnesota	1892	1896	1898	1898	1900	1919		Retired in Rochester.
Frederick P. Werner	Dec. 5, 1874	Minnesota	1885	1896	1899	1899	1901			
George Hoff										Went to Oregon, 1900.
Karl Meckel	Aug. 14, 1868	Germany	1885	1888	1891 1887	1891	1893			Came from Calinfornia in 1896; came to California in 1890.
Adam Geyman	April 12, 1861	Wisconsin	1882	1885	1898	1887	1889			Went into Anti-Saloon work, 1917.
Paul A. Lang	Feb. 15, 1877	Germany	1885	1899	1901	1901	1903			
George G. Schmid	April 5, 1877	Minnesota	1895	1899	1902	1902	1904			Returned from Illinois, 1902. Went to California Conference, 1911.
Gustave J. Krienke	1870	Minnesota	1886	1899		1902	1904	1912		Located at Hutchinson.
W. Link				1899						Took credentials for Nebraska, 1904.
G. Frederick Gedosch		Minnesota		1900						Never preached in Minnesota. Moved to Washington.
John Altner				1900						Preached one year. Located at Elizabeth.
F. W. Schwenk				1901						Took credentials to New York Conference, 1903.
John D. Moede	Nov. 23, 1877	Minnesota	1897	1901	1903	1903	1905			Took credentials for Washington Conference, 1917.
Frederick R. Riedel	March 30, 1878	Wuerttemberg	1894	1903	1905	1905	1907			
William Sack	April 12, 1876	Minnesota	1886	1903						Preached one year. Lived at Salem as local preacher.
Charles C. Stettbacher	April 28, 1870	Illinois	1887	1903	1906	1906	1917			
Robert R. Werner	Aug. 5, 1879	Minnesota	1903	1903	1908	1908	1910			
George Currier				1904						Called for his credentials in 1907. Went to another denomination.
August R. Zick	July 3, 1875	Germany	1889	1904	1906	1906	1908			
Max Wordelman	May 20, 1876	Germany	1898	1906	1908	1908	1910			Located, 1920, at Buffalo Lake.
Leonhart Reep	Aug. 22, 1852	Pennsylvania	Young	1871	1906	In	Iowa	1917	May 12, 1918	Came from Iowa Conference, 1906. Buried at Buffalo Lake.
Henry C. Schmidt	Dec. 30, 1879	Iowa	1895	1904	1909	1909	1911			Came from Iowa Conference, 1906.
Herbert J. Burgstahler				1907						Withdrew from our church, 1911.
Chester B. Frank	Aug. 29, 1883	Minnesota	1901	1907	1909	1909	1912			
Paul R. Mueller		Germany		1907	1909 1893	1909	1911			Took credentials to Congregational Church, 1913.
Conrad Nauman	Dec. 27, 1857	Illinois	1872	1891	1909	1893	1895			Came from Washington Conf., 1907.
B. R. Wiener	March 14, 1868	Germany	1888	1892	1902	1894	1896			Came from Iowa Conference, 1902. Left our conference, 1907.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
Herman F. Schlaak	Oct. 23, 1874	Germany	1902	1906	1910	1910	1913	1919		Located at Waseca, 1919.
Henry E. Soltau		Minnesota		1908						Never preached in our conference.
Aug. L. Prodoehl		Minnesota		1908						Joined M. E. Church.
Edward F. Brandt	June 8, 1884	Minnesota	1901	1909	1913	1913	1915			Never preached.
Frederick W. Schendel	May 23, 1879	Minnesota	1902	1909	1915	1915	1917			
Albert A. Schendel	Feb. 2, 1881	Minnesota	1903	1909	1914	1914	1917			
Max O. Siewert	Sept. 8, 1886	Minnesota	1898	1909	1917	1917				Went to Montana, 1917.
Edward Werner	Sept. 11, 1882	Minnesota	1902	1909	1915	1915	1917			
Clarence E. Borchardt	May 19, 1885	Minnesota	1902	1909	1920		1921			Went to Dakota. Came back to Minnesota in 1920.
Lewis Steeley					1911					Received into conference, 1910. Left again, 1913.
Herman E. Mueller	July 1, 1890	Minnesota	1904	1911	1914	1914	1916			
Herman H. Georgius	April 15, 1870	Minnesota	1893	1911	1913	1913	1917			
Otto Brose	April 18, 1851	Germany	1866	1881	1885 1911	1885	1887			Preached in Illinois and Iowa. Took work in Minnesota, 1910.
Herbert S. Frank	Feb. 28, 1892	Minnesota	1907	1912	1914	1914	1916			
P. Schott					1912			1918		Went as missionary to China, 1919.
Ernst Groenig		Minnesota		1913						Came from Iowa.
Frederick W. Hauser	March 10, 1887	Minnesota	1905	1913	1917	1917	1919			Preached one year in our conference, then joined M. E. Church.
Lewis Strothman	Aug. 21, 1884	Wisconsin	1909	1913	1916	1916	1918			
C. F. Mayer										
F. A. Frase	Aug. 3, 1851	Germany	1872	1874	1874 1913	1876	1878			Came from Texas, 1913. Went to Kansas Conference, 1915.
George P. Herbold	July 8, 1880	Germany	1902	1903	1905 1914	1909	1915			Came from U. E. Church, 1914.
Albert H. Nauman	Feb. 25, 1881	Illinois	1899	1914	1915	1915				Came from Texas Conference, 1914. Withdrew from church, 1920.
Emil C. Kreitlow	Aug. 11, 1892	Minnesota	1905	1914	1918	1918	1920			
George F. Hack	Feb. 11, 1870	Wisconsin	1887	1893	1914 1895	1895	1897			Came from Wisconsin Conference, 1914. Left Minn., 1921.
Arthur Riss				1915						Went to Texas, then to Oregon Conf.
Henry C. Freitag	Aug. 30, 1882	Minnesota	1900	1907	1917		1912			Came from Washington, 1915.
F. A. Mundt	Nov. 27, 1858			1885		1887				Came from Wisconsin Conf., 1914. Withdrew from church, 1917.

TABLE I—*List of Ministers of the Evangelical Association Connected with the Work in Minnesota*—Cont'd

Names of Ministers	Born: When	Born: Where	When Converted	When Licensed	Received into Itinerancy	Ordained Deacon	Ordained Elder	Retired	Died	Remarks
Louis M. Adelman	Oct., 1890	Minnesota	1904	1916						
James H. Haueter	Nov. 13, 1896	Minnesota	1913	1916	1922	1922				Served in army.
Ernst Matz		Minnesota		1916	1918	1918	1921			Never preached in our conference. Went to California, 1920.
Harrison A. Zieske	July 28, 1888	Minnesota	1905	1916	1918	1918	1921			
Aaron J. Smith	Oct. 22, 1887	South Dakota	1905	1911	1917	1916	1918			Withdrew from our church, 1920. Went to China.
Wesley Schneider	Aug. 2, 1891	Illinois		1917	1921	1921				
Alfred Nelson	May 11, 1893	Minnesota	1915	1917	1920	1920				
Edward Podoll	Aug. 21, 1890	Wisconsin	1904	1917	1919	1919	1922			
Jacob G. Heidinger	April 18, 1886	Wuerttemberg	1909	1912	1917	1917	1919			Came from Canada Conference, 1917.
Paul J. Smith	April 19, 1890	South Dakota	1910	1914	1918	1917	1919			Took credentials, 1922.
Fred M. Ohms	Aug. 17, 1881	Germany	1900	1916	1919	1919	1921			Came from Illinois Conference, 1918.
Delmar C. Trapp	March 8, 1899	Minnesota	1912	1918	1922	1922				
Edward Zellmer	July 19, 1895	Wisconsin	1911	1918						
Reuben H. Mueller	June 2, 1897	Minnesota	1912	1918	1922 1908	1922				
Fred John Knuth	March 12, 1868	Germany	1892	1894	1896	1896	1898			Came from U. E. Church.
Reuben L. Wintz	Oct. 15, 1873	Minnesota	1895	1904		1919				Left our conference, 1920.
Irving Kottke	April 14, 1898	Minnesota		1919						
Wm. H. Wiener	Oct. 26, 1899	Iowa		1919	1921	1921				
Earl Utzinger	March 7, 1898	Minnesota	1910	1920						
Edwin Moede	May 4, 1895	Minnesota	1910	1920						
Albert Utzman	Dec. 22, 1898	Minnesota		1920						
C. Milton Schaefer	June 7, 1897	Minnesota	1910	1921						
Fremont Willnert		1890 Minnesota	1903	1921	1922	1922				Took credentials to Indiana, 1922.
Arne Albert Ehlers	March 20, 1896	Minnesota		1921						
Frank C. Spong	Jan. 4, 1895	Minnesota		1921						
Harry F. Rieke	Feb. 16, 1894	Minnesota	1906	1915		1921				Received from M. E. Church, 1921.
Carl E. Berger	Oct. 5, 1890	Michigan	1913	1914	1922	1922				Received from Indiana Conf., 1921.
Alvin R. Kottke	Feb. 28, 1902	Minnesota		1922						
Albert Gollnick		Dakota		1922						
Adolph G. Lippert				1922						
William G. Schendel				1922						
Oscar Munson				1922						
Ernst F. Roesti		Minnesota		1922						
George Kirgiss		Minnesota		1922						
Aaron Link		Minnesota		1922						
Milton Sipple										

TABLE II—*Districts and Their Presiding Elders*

Year	District	P. E.	Yrs.
A. WISCONSIN CONFERENCE			
1856–1859	Wisconsin	J. G. Escher	3
1859–1860	Minnesota	L. Buehler	1
B. IOWA CONFERENCE			
1860–1864	Minnesota	Israel Kuter	4
1864–1867	St. Paul	John Hammeter	2½
1867–1868	St. Paul	William Stegner	1
C. MINNESOTA CONFERENCE			
1868–1871	St. Paul	W. Stegner	3
	Winona	I. Kuter*	3
1871–1875	St. Paul	Leonard von Wald	4
	Winona	Wm. Stegner	4
1874–1875	Mankato	A. Strohmeier	1
1875–1876	St. Paul	W. Stegner*	1
	Winona	A. Strohmeier	1
	Mankato	C. Brill	1
1876–1879	St. Paul	H. E. Linse	3
	Winona	A. Strohmeier	3
	Mankato	C. Brill	3
1879–1880	St. Paul	H. E. Linse	1
	Minneapolis	C. Brill	1
	St. Peter	A. Strohmeier	1
	South	W. Stegner	1
1880–1883	St. Paul	H. Bunse	3
	Minneapolis	C. Brill	3
	St. Peter	A. Strohmeier	3
	Mankato	W. Stegner	3
1883–1884	St. Paul	H. Bunse	1
	Minneapolis	A. Strohmeier	1
	Mankato	H. E. Linse	1
1884–1887	St. Paul	H. E. Linse	3
	Minneapolis	A. Strohmeier	3
	Mankato	H. Bunse	3
1887–1888	St. Paul	A. Strohmeier	1
	Minneapolis	H. E. Linse	1
	Mankato	H. Bunse	1
1888–1890	St. Paul	A. Strohmeier	2
	Minneapolis	H. E. Linse	2
	Mankato	J. G. Simon	2
1890–1892	St. Paul	H. E. Linse	2
	Minneapolis	F. R. Plantikow	2
	Mankato	J. G. Simon	2
1892–1894	St. Paul	J. G. Simon	2
	Minneapolis	F. R. Plantikow	2
	Mankato	C. W. Sydow	2
1894–1896	St. Paul	J. G. Simon	2
	Minneapolis	G. Spaeth	2
	Mankato	C. W. Sydow	2
1896–1898	St. Paul	G. W. Hielscher	2
	Minneapolis	G. Spaeth	2
	Mankato	F. R. Plantikow	2
1898–1900	St. Paul	G. W. Hielscher	2
	Minneapolis	H. Bunse	2
	Mankato	F. R. Plantikow	2
1900–1902	St. Paul	F. R. Plantikow	2
	Minneapolis	H. Bunse	2
	Mankato	G. Spaeth	2
1902–1904	St. Paul	F. R. Plantikow	2
	Minneapolis	J. M. Baitinger	2
	Mankato	G. Spaeth	2
1904–1906	St. Paul	H. Plantikow	2
	Minneapolis	J. M. Baitinger	2
	Mankato	L. S. Stapf	2
1906–1910	St. Paul	J. M. Baitinger	4
	Minneapolis	H. Plantikow	4
	Mankato	A. H. Utzinger	4
1910–1914	St. Paul	H. Plantikow	4
	Minneapolis	A. H. Utzinger	4
	Mankato	M. Schoenleben	4
1914–1918	St. Paul	M. Schoenleben	4
	Minneapolis	E. H. Bollenbach	4
	Mankato	H. Plantikow	4
1918–1920	St. Paul	C. F. Kachel	2
	Minneapolis	H. Plantikow	2
	Mankato	E. H. Bollenbach	2
1920–1922	St. Paul	C. F. Kachel	2
	Minneapolis	C. B. Frank	2
	Mankato	E. H. Bollenbach	2

*Resigned.

TABLE III—*Presiding Elders and Their Districts*

No.	Name	District	Total No. of Years
1	J. George Escher	Some Wisconsin District, including Minnesota	3
2	Leonhart Buehler	Minnesota, 1	1
3	Israel Kuter	Minnesota, 4; Winona, 3	7
4	John Hammeter	Minnesota, 2½	2½
5	William Stegner	St. Paul, 5; Winona, 4; Mankato, 4	13
6	Leonhart von Wald	St. Paul, 4	4
7	Andrew Strohmeier	Mankato, 1; Winona, 4; St. Peter, 4; Minneapolis, 4; St. Paul, 3	16
8	Christoph Brill	Mankato, 4; Minneapolis, 4	8
9	Henry E. Linse	St. Paul, 9; Minneapolis, 3; Mankato, 1	13
10	Herman Bunse	St. Paul, 4; Mankato, 4; Minneapolis, 4	12
11	J. George Simon	Mankato, 4; St. Paul, 4	8
12	Frank R. Plantikow	Minneapolis, 4; Mankato, 4; St. Paul, 4	12
13	C. William Sydow	Mankato, 4	4
14	George Spaeth	Minneapolis, 4; Mankato, 4	8
15	George W. Hielscher	St. Paul, 4	4
16	John M. Baitinger	Minneapolis, 4; St. Paul, 4	8
17	Herman Plantikow	St. Paul, 6; Minneapolis, 6; Mankato, 4	16
18	Louis S. Stapf	Mankato, 2 (Became sick)	2
19	Albert H. Utzinger	Mankato, 4; Minneapolis, 4	8
20	Moses Schoenleben	Mankato, 4; St. Paul, 4	8
21	Edward H. Bollenbach	Minneapolis, 4; Mankato, 4	8
22	Charles F. Kachel	St. Paul, 4	4
23	C. B. Frank	Minneapolis	
24	E. F. Brand	St. Paul	

TABLE IV—*List of Delegates to the General Conferences*

1863

From the Iowa Conference: *I. Kuter,* R. Dubs and J. Keiper.

1867

From the Iowa Conference: *R Dubs,* H. Lageschulte, W. Stegner, H. J. Bowman, H. E. Linse and A. Strohmeier.

1871

From the Minnesota Conference: *W. Stegner* and C. Brill.

1875

W. Stegner, A. Strohmeier and C. Brill.

1879

W. Stegner, A. Strohmeier and C. Brill.

1883

H. E. Linse, H. Bunse, A. Strohmeier and Aug. Huelster.

1887

H. E. Linse, A. Strohmeier, H. Bunse and W. Oehler.

1891

H. E. Linse, J. G. Simon, F. R. Plantikow, A. Knebel and C. W. Sydow.

1895

C. W. Sydow, F. R. Plantikow, G Spaeth, J. G. Simon and E. J. Hielscher.

1899

F. R. Plantikow, H. Bunse, G. W. Hielscher, J. G. Simon and G. Spaeth.

1903

F. R. Plantikow, G. Spaeth, J. M. Baitinger, C. W. Sydow and J. G. Simon.

1907

H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger, J. M. Baitinger, F. R. Plantikow, C. W. Sydow, J. H. Burmester and A. Schoch.

1911

M. Schoenleben, H. Plantikow, A. H. Utzinger, F. R. Plantikow, J. M. Baitinger, J. H. Burmester and J. J. Meyer.

1915

E. H Bollenbach, H. Plantikow, M. Schoenleben, C. Nauman, R. M. Mueller, J. H. Burmester and J. J. Meyer.

1919

E. H. Bollenbach, H. Plantikow, C. F. Kachel, M. Schoenleben, R. M. Mueller, J. C. Zehnder and H. C. Schneider.

TABLE V—*Churches*

Location	Name	Pastor at the Time it was Built	First Church, Year	Second Church, Year	Third Church, Year	Remarks
Amboy	Zion	A. Reeck & F. Draeger	1890n	*		
Acoma	Zion	H. E. Linse	1870n	1905n		First destroyed by fire. H. Isker built second.
Alexandria	Hope	A. T. Ehlert	1893b			Sold in 1914.
Altnows		C. Schmidt	1878n			
Barnum	Zions	E. Helmer	1899n			Sold in 1902.
Bear Valley	Immanuel	H. Plantikow	1890n			
Bellingham	Zion	W. Lenz	1891n	1910n	1911n	The second burned down. Zabel built 2nd and Juedes 3rd.
Birchdale	Salem	H. A. Seder	1902n			
Biscay	Salem	J. Kienholz	1879			
Bismark	Tabor	F. R. Wolter	1891n			
Blooming Grove	Zions	J. Zimmermann	1875n			Sold 1903.
Blue Earth	Emanuels	C. Brill	1866n	1887n		C. Brill also built the second.
Blue Earth	Salems	A. Knebel	1881n	1895n		F. R. Plantikow built the second.
Bluhms (Elysian)	Emanuel	J. G. Drehmel	1869			
Brainerd	Zion	L. Passer	1888b			A. Zabel enlarged it, 1914.
Brook Park						
Brush Creek	Tabor	G. H. Siebold	1887n			
Buffalo Lake	Zion	O. Schultz	1897b			
Carver		C. Brill	1863n			
Castle Rock	Tabor	E. H. Baumann	1876n			
Chaska	Zion	G. W. Hielscher	1878n			Sold, 1912.
Cherry Grove	Salem	F. C. Schmidt	1892n			
Clifton	Bethel	G. W. Hielscher	1905n			
Cottonwood (Searles)	Tabor	F. Emde	1865n	1889n		M. Gagstetter built the second.
Courtland	Emanuel	B. Simon	1879n			
Danube (Country)	Salem	John Schmitt	1881n			
Danube	Zion	Mueller and Zick	1904n			
Deer Creek	Salem	Siebold and Utzinger	1892n			Moved by C. Nauman into village, 1909.
Duluth	Hope	A. H. Utzinger	1896n			
Dunbar	Zion	J. von Eschen	1874n	1891		Second built by C. W. Sydow.
East Prairie	Salem	Wm. Stegner	1865n	1889n		Second built by F. R. Plantikow. Moved to Nerstrand, 1916, by C. F. Sydow.
Eden Valley	Ebenezer	G. H. Siebold	1895n			
Elizabeth	Zion	J. Gongoll	1876n			
Elmdale	Zion	W. J. Vetter	1888n			
Elmore	Hope	A. H. Utzinger	1903b			
Fairfield	Zion	C. W. Sydow	1881b	1895n		H. Hensel built the second. The first one was moved from Yellowbank.
Fairmont	Salem	O. Schultz	1900n			
Fairpoint	Zion	Geo. von Eschen	1876n			
Faribault	Zion	C. W. Sydow	1879n	1907n		C. A. Tesch built the second.
Farmington	Salem	G. H. Schaefer	1902b			F. R. Riedel enlarged it, 1912.

*Key: n for new; b for bought; e for enlarged.

TABLE V—*Churches*—Continued

Location	Name	Pastor at the Time it was Built	First Church, Year	Second Church, Year	Third Church, Year	Remarks
Fergus Falls	Ebenezer	F. F. Arndt	1908b	1913n		M. Wordelman built the second. First was destroyed by cyclone.
Flats (Fergus Falls)	Salem	F. Schild	1895n			Has forty acres of land with it.
Frontenac		H. Plantikow	1888n			Sold in 1896.
Germantown	Zion	L. Passer	1876n	1900		Enlarged by C. F .Kachel, 1900.
Grafton	Emanuel	A. G. Sahr	1889n	1914		Enlarged by M. Wordelman, 1914.
Greenwood Prairie	Zion	C. W. Sydow	1876n			
Hammond	Bethlehem	M. Knopf	1881n			
Hanover	Zion	L. Passer	1885n			
Hay Creek			1869n			Sold, 1883.
Hendricks	Zion	J. Fandrey	1884n			
Hollywood (Mayer)	Emanuel	J. Manthey	1872n			
Hutchinson	Bethlehem	C. F. Kachel	1889n	1907		H. Isker enlarged it, 1907.
Iosca	Ebenezer	J. G. Simon	1880n			
Jackson (Country)	Zion	A. Reeck	1893n			Remodeled by C. C. Engelbart, 1906.
Kenyon	Emanuel	H. Isker	1914n			
Koblers	Zion					
Lamberton	Emanuel	F. G. Sahr	1906n			
Larchwood	Zion	F. W. Siebel	1902n			Sold in 1916.
Le Sueur	Tabor	L. S. Stapf	1890n			
Luverne	Ebenezer	W. Oehler	1874n	1884n	1918n	Siebold built 2nd, Schendel 3rd, 1918. Second burned down.
Madison	Ebenezer	R. M. Mueller	1889n	1916		Enlarged by H. C. Freitag.
Maine Prairie	Gethsemane	F. C. Schmidt	1880n			
Mankato	Jerusalem	W. Oehler	1872n	1919n		Wm Wiener built second. Called First Church.
Maple Grove	Emanuel	C. Brill	1864	1874n		Second built by A. Walch.
Marshall	Salem	H. A. Seder	1899n			
Mayer	Zion	J. Kienholz	1867n	1889n		J. Kienholz also built the second.
Meriden	Emanuel	W. Oehler	1882n			
Middle Creek	Zion	J. H. Schmitt	1880n	1911n		Second was built by J. G. Krienke, 1911.
Minneapolis, 6th Avenue	Zion	G. H. Knebel	1871n	1877†		Remodeled by C. F. Kachel. Sold, 1916.
Minneapolis, Highland Park		J. I. Seder	1887n			Sold, 1905.
Minneapolis	First	F. R. Plantikow	1905n			
Minneapolis (South)	Oakland Avenue		1920n			
Montrose	Salem	P. Bott	1880n			Sold in 1915.
Morristown	Zion	H. Isker	1902b			
Mound Prairie	Tabor	J. Kienholz	1874n	1903		Enlarged by C. C. Engelbart, 1903.
New Avon	Salem	G. Britzius	1896n			
New Trier	Zion	G. von Eschen	1860n			
New Trier	Emanuel	L. von Wald	1867n			
New Ulm	Bethel	E. H. Bollenbach	1905n			
Nicollet	Zion	J. G. Simon	1878n			
North Redwood	Salem	M. Gagstetter	1886n			

†Second by W. Stegner.

TABLE V—*Churches*—Continued

Location	Name	Pastor at the Time it was Built	First Church, Year	Second Church, Year	Third Church, Year	Remarks
Oak Ridge	Zion	F. Emde	1868n			
Oak Valley	Oak Valley	J. H. Muehlhausen	1898n			
Odessa	Emanuel	G. Britzius	1878n			
Odessa	Salem	E. J. Hielscher	1883	1893n		First burned down. Second built by Siebold.
Olivia	Emanuel	H. Hensel	1889n	1914		J. Gongoll built second.
Osceola	Hope	F. R. Riedel	1910n			
Otter Tail	Emanuel	Siebold and Utzinger	1892n			Moved to village by F. A. Mundt, 1915.
Paynesville	Salem	E. H. Baumann	1871n	1897n		J. Gongoll built second.
Paynesville	Zion	C. Brill	1873n			
Paynesville (Grove)	Emanuel	A. C. Schmidt	1890n			
Paynesville	Paynesville	H. Bunse	1892n	1913n		C. Nauman and C. F. Kachel built second.
Pequot	Grace	C. B. Frank	1908n			
Pipestone (Country)	Salem	S. B. Goetz	1887n	1898n		F. H. Draeger built second.
Pipestone	Zion	F. H. Draeger	1898n			
Pleasant Corner	Emanuel	G. von Eschen	1876n	1910n		First burned down. H. A. Seder built second.
Pleasant Grove	Jerusalem	W. Stegner	1862n	1884n		J. Gongoll built second.
Le Sueur Center (Pope's)	Tabor	A. T. Ehlert	1897n			Moved to village, 1916.
Prairieville	Ebenezer	A. Knebel	1871n	1902n		A. Zabel built second, 1902.
Preston	Zion	L. von Wald	1859n			
Quincy	Salem	J. Kienholz	1873n			
Racine	Salem	A. Walch	1876n			Moved to village, 1897, by M. Schoenleben.
Red Rock	Jerusalem	C. F. Kachel	1898n			
Redwing		W. Fritz	1879b			Sold.
Rice (Graham)	Emanuel	H. Plantikow	1892n			Moved one mile north.
Rice Lake	Emanuel	Aug. Knebel	1880n	1907		Enlarged by H. Hensel, 1907.
Rochester	Salem	J. G. Simon	1872n	1911		Moved by A. R. Zick.
Rush River	Salem	J. H. Schmitt	1882n			
St. Charles	Salem	L. von Wald	1875b			Bought from the Congregationalists.

TABLE V—*Churches*—Continued

Location	Name	Pastor at the Time it was Built	First Church, Year	Second Church, Year	Third Church, Year	Remarks
St. Clair	Zion	G. H. Knebel	1876n	1912		Enlarged, 1912, by J. D. Moede.
St. Cloud	Zion	A. C. Schmidt	1888n			
St. Paul (Pine Street)	Emanuel	A. Tarnutzer	1857n	1886n		W. Oehler built second. Sold, 1917.
St. Paul (Dayton Bluff)	First	C. B. Frank	1919n			
St. Paul (Goodrich Avenue)	Zion	C. Brill	1871			Sold about 1886.
St. Paul, Winifred Street	Zion	G. Duebendorf	1883n	1902e		Enlarged by H. Plantikow, 1902.
St. Paul (South)	Salem	H. Bunse	1874n			
St. Paul (Midway)	Calvary	E. D. Groenig	1913n			Improved, 1916, by H. S. Frank.
St. Peter	Zion	A. Strohmeier	1872n			Sold, 1897.
Sargent	Zion	G. Duebendorf	1899n			
Sharon	Salem		1867			Land sold, 1915. Church sold, 1914.
Sleepy Eye	Zion	J. von Eschen	1876n	1899n	1921	R. M. Mueller built the second.
South Haven	Zion	F. G. Sahr	1899n			Moved to village, 1916, by W. Walter.
Springfield	Emanuel	F. F. Arndt	1889n			
Steen	Salem	C. W. Wolthausen	1894n			
Streichs (Isanti)						
Sumner Center	Bethel	S. B. Goetz	1894n			
Wabasso	Pilgrim	C. F. Kachel	1900n			
Wadena	Zion	J. Kienholz	1884n			
Waseca	Salem	J. Zimmermann	1875n	1902n		H. Isker built second
Welcome	Emanuel	G. Britzius	1891n			
Wells	Salem	G. Britzius	1892n			
Western	Emanuel	H. A. Seder	1890n			
Wilson	Salem	J. Kienholz	1873n			
Wilton	Emanuel	J. Kienholz	1866n			
Winona, East 4th Street	Zion	I. Kuter	1867n			Sold, 1902.
Winona, West King	Emanuel	J. L. Stegner	1887n	1907e		Enlarged, 1907, by A. Geyman.
Worthington	Emanuel	S. B. Goetz	1891n			
Worthington (Country)	Bethel	F. H. Draeger	1893b			

TABLE VI—*List of Parsonages*

Location	LIST OF PARSONAGES		
	Pastor supervising	Year	Remarks
Acoma	J. H. Schmitt		
Alexandria	C. F. Sydow	1889n	Sold in 1914.
Appleton	A. G. Sahr	1887b	First sold 1913, and another bought by W. J. Vetter.
Arlington	C. F. Sydow	1881	Sold, 1892.
Bellingham	C. A. Tesch	1915b	
Blue Earth (Country)	E. J. Hielscher	1871n	Second was built by A. H. Utzinger, 1902.
Blue Earth (City)	M. Gagstetter	1892n	Second was built by A. Geyman, 1916.
Brainerd	A. H. Utzinger	1889n	
Buffalo Lake	F. Moede	1900b	
Chaska	F. F. Arndt	1887n	Sold, 1912.
Cherry Grove	A. Zabel	1899n	
Cottonwood			Built of logs, in early years.
Courtland	O. Schultz	1891b	Sold in 1904.
Crow River	L. von Wald	1863	Second by W. Fritz, 1882, in Montrose.
Danube	F. R. Riedel	1910n	
Deer Creek	A. J. Iwan	1898n	
Duluth	A. H. Utzinger	1896n	Space of it added to church auditorium, 1918.
Elizabeth	A. C. Schmidt	1878n	Sold, 1907.
East Prairie	Von Wald & Simon	1867	Sold, 1904.
English Grove	E. F. Movius	1879	Sold, 1889.
Faribault	G. Spaeth	1883n	Second built, 1916, by A. R. Zick.
Farmington	G. H. Schaefer	1903b	
Fergus Falls	F. F. Arndt	1908b	Sold, 1919, and a new one erected on church lot
Frontenac	G. von Eschen, or W. Giess	*	by F. R. Riedel. Second built by H. Plantikow, 1888. Sold, 1896.
Germantown	E. F. Movius	1877	Second was built by C. F. Kachel, 1898.
Graham	R. C. Mittelstadt	1898n	Sold, 1915.
Hammond	F. F. Arndt	1897	
Hutchinson	C. F. Sydow	1882b	Second bought by G. H. Siebold, 1899.
Jackson	G. F. Hack	1917b	
Kasson	C. W. Sydow	1886b	Enlarged by H. A. Seder, 1903.
Kenyon	P. A. Lang	1904b	
Lamberton	J. Gongoll	1915b	Sold, 1916.
Le Sueur	B. Simon	1892n	
Le Sueur Center	O. Schultz	1889	Sold, 1897.
Luverne	W. C. Stegner	1881n	Second built by O. Brose, 1913.
Minnesota Lake	J. L. Stegner	1877	Sold in 1887.
Minneapolis, 6th Ave.	W. Stegner	1878	Sold in 1918.
Minneapolis, H. P.	J. I. Seder	1888	Sold, 1905.
Minneapolis, Emerson	F. R. Plantikow	1905n	
Minneapolis, Dist. House	A. Strohmeier	1883	On 6th Ave., North. Sold, 1903.
Minneapolis, Dist. House	H. Plantikow	1906	On Emerson Ave., North.
Mankato	J. Manthey	1884n	Sold, 1919.
Mankato, Dist. House	H. Bunse	1884n	Remodeled by M. Schoenleben, 1911.
Maple Grove		*	Second built by L. Passer.
Marshall	G. W. Hielscher	1907b	Sold, 1917. New one built, 1917.
Mayer	J. Kienholz	1891n	
Middle Creek	A. C. Schmidt	1872	B. Simon built second in 1883.
Mound Prairie	E. H. Baumann	1876n	Enlarged by F. F. Arndt, 1893.
New Trier	G. von Eschen	1860n	Sold, 1903.
New Ulm	J. H. Muehlhausen	1906n	
Odessa	A. Knebel	1889	
Olivia	R. C. Mittelstadt	1895n	
Paynesville	A. C. Schmidt	1889n	
Pipestone	C. F. Sydow	1901n	
Preston	Hammeter & Seder	1861n	A. Zabel rebuilt it, 1898.
Racine	G. Duebendorf	1888n	Moved to village by M. Schoenleben, 1897.
Rice Lake	J. G. Simon	1901n	
Rochester	E. J. Hielscher	1873n	Moved and enlarged by A. R. Zick, 1911. New one built, 1915, by F. R. Riedel.
Royalton	H. A. Seder	1887n	Sold, 1898.
St. Charles	H. Bunse	1870n	
St. Clair	P. R. Mueller	1910b	Enlarged by P. R. Mueller.
St. Cloud	A. C. Schmidt	1876b	Enlarged by F. G. Sahr, 1898. Sold, 1919, and new one built.
St. Peter	J. H. Schmitt	1883b	Sold.
St. Paul, Pine St.	A. Strohmeier	1867	Second built by W. Oehler, 1886. Sold, 1917.
St. Paul, Winifred	F. R. Plantikow	1884n	
St. Paul, Goodrich	C. Brill	1875	Sold about 1886.
Sherburn	F. C. Schmidt	1887n	Sold, 1915.
Sleepy Eye	B. Simon	1881n	Enlarged by O. Schultz, 1904.
Wabasso	Kachel & Roesti	1901n	
Wadena	J. Kienholz	1885n	Enlarged by J. M. Baitinger, 1897.
Waseca	G. Yahn	1868n	
Wells	G. H. Siebold	1887n	R. C. Mittelstadt built a new one, 1920.
Winona, E. 4th St.	I. Kuter	1867n	Sold, 1902.
Winona, West King	B. Simon	1894n	
Winthrop	W. Lenz	1892	Sold, 1900.
Worthington	J. H. Muehlhausen	1902n	
Zion	F. Emde	1862n	Second by J. H. Schmitt, about 1876.

Key: n means new; b, bought.
*Early Sixties.